Daily Report

Latin America

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Cuba

Roa Kouri, Panama Envoy on Rights Group Election

FL2705005488 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 27 May 88

[Text] A meeting of experts began this afternoon at the Palace of Conventions to prepare the special ministerial meeting on disarmament of the Nonaligned Movement Coordinating Bureau. Here is our colleague, Daisy Gomez, with more information:

[Gomez] The document drafting committee was set up at this initial session of high-ranking officials and ambassadors. (Isaac Muguende), Zimbabwe's ambassador to the United Nations, is presiding over the discussions as the representative of the country that is currently chairing the Nonaligned Movement. Analysis of the draft final communique also began today with a program of action. The agenda includes the draft of the Havana appeal for peace, life, and development, as well as the document on the final communique.

The sessions of this important meeting will continue tomorrow. It is the first held by the nonaligned on disarmament.

It was also learned today that Cuba, Panama, and Colombia were elected members of the UN Human Rights Commission. During a recess in the debates, Vice Foreign Minister Raul Roa Kouri assessed this event:

[Begin Roa Kouri recording] I feel it signifies recognition by the UN Economic and Social Council of Cuba's work in the area of human rights at the United Nations, especially the efforts of the Cuban revolution to make the cultivation of man's complete dignity the first and fundamental law of the republic, as Jose Marti dreamed and sought. In addition, I believe this constitutes another setback for the Yankee imperialists who have tried to accuse Cuba of human rights violations at the Human Rights Commission in Geneva and in the United Nations itself. [end recording]

Later, the Panamanian ambassador to Cuba spoke of his country's election to this committee:

[Begin recording] We believe that our actions on this subject are very straightforward and well known. This coincides with a very important moment. As you know, we have been subjected to extraordinary pressure and aggression in our country. What this means is that the international community understands very well what is happening in my country not only in this field but also in its overall political crisis. [end recording]

Election 'Setback' for U.S.

FL2705010988 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 27 May 88

[Text] Cuba was elected today as member of the UN Human Rights Commission. This means a harsh setback for the United States, 2 months after the U.S. Administration unsuccessfully attempted to condemn Cuba at the international organ. Oscar Oramas Oliva, Cuba's permanent representative to the United Nations, stated that this lesson constitutes a rebuff to those in Washington who are carrying out a campaign of lies and provocations with the objective of portraying our country as a violator of human rights.

The Latin American representation is also made up of Colombia and Panama. The new commission's mandate will extend from 1 January 1989 to 31 December 1991.

Nonaligned Ministerial Preparatory Meeting Held

FL2605204788 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2002 GMT 26 May 88

[Text] High-level officials from more than 80 nonaligned countries began at the Palace of Conventions this afternoon the preparatory meeting of the special ministerial meeting on disarmament, which will take place from 28 to 30 May. This nonaligned meeting in Havana is the first one dealing exclusively with disarmament. A consensus of the movement will be prepared and presented at the special meeting of the UN General Assembly on the same topic.

Forty-five foreign ministers will be present at the Nonaligned Movement ministerial meeting on disarmament from 28 to 30 May. This shows the importance the members of the movement give to the elimination of weapons. The Havana Nonaligned Movement meeting, which began today, is another united action of the Third World for the development of peace through disarmament.

Further on Angolan Defense Minister's Visit

Speaks at Isle of Youth School

FL2605165588 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 26 May 88

[Text] Colonel General Pedro Maria Tonha, defense minister of the People's Republic of Angola, has toured various areas of the Isle of Youth. Division General Rogelio Acevedo, chief of the Central Political Directorate of the Ministry of the FAR, accompanied the Angolan military delegation, and they were received by Armando Manresa, first party secretary of the Isle of Youth Municipality.

Afterward, the Angolan minister of defense visited the old model fortress which is now a national monument and where Fidel and other assailants of the Moncada Barracks were imprisoned in 1953. More than 4,000 Angolan students studying on the island met at the (Evangelina Cosigo) rural school with Col Gen Pedro Maria Tonha. Tonha spoke to the students on the internal situation in the country and referred to Cuba's internationalist aid to the People's Republic of Angola.

[Begin Tonha recording in Portuguese with consecutive Spanish translation] Cuito Cuanavale has written its history in the glorious pages of our history because there are hundreds of Angolan and Cuban children who gave their very lives and who continue giving their very lives. We can also say at this moment that the South Africans may use all the forces they wish but that it will be very difficult for them to take over or occupy Cuito Cuanavale. [applause] [end recording]

Visits Matanzas

FL2705015988 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 27 May 88

[Report by Nelson Barrera from Matanzas]

[Text] Colonel General Pedro Maria Tonha, minister of defense of the People's Republic of Angola and member of the Politburo of the MPLA [Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola]-Labor Party, visited the Jose Luis Tasende National School for Drill Sergeants this morning. Division General Ulises Rosales del Toro, first vice minister of the FAR, chief of the General Staff, and alternate member of the PCC Politburo, received the Angolan delegation at the school. The delegation has been on an official and working visit to our country since Sunday.

School Director Colonel (Norgue Gutierrez) briefed them on the objectives of the institution, its resources, daily schedules and events, the process of selecting the students, and other details of interest.

So far, more than 1,000 drill sergeants have graduated from the center with excellent political and military qualifications. The students of the seventh course offered the visitors a demonstration of their training in jumping obstacles, hand-to-hand combat, infiltration, deployment, artillery support, and countering incendiary weapons. Afterward, a company of future drill sergeants demonstrated their skill in infantry drills.

Tanzanian Defense Minister Visits Isle of Youth

FL2705021788 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 27 May 88

[Text] The deputy prime minister and minister of defense of the United Republic of Tanzania met this morning with Mozambican students attending school on the Isle of Youth. Salim Ahmed Salim toured the facilities of the 25 de Septiembre School, where he learned of the living and study conditions of the foreign scholarship holders in the special municipality, who now number more than 20,000 from over 37 nations.

Salim was accompanied by Brigadier General Ruben Martinez, vice minister of the FAR and chief of the Antiaircraft Defense and Revolutionary Air Force. In his talk with the Mozambican students, Salim urged the youngsters to make the best use of their study time for the sake of Africa and Mozambique. He thanked Cuba for its internationalist aid to the African continent.

[Begin Salim recording in English with consecutive Spanish translation] I want, in the name of Mozambique, in the name of Tanzania, in the name of all the frontline states, to say that this is yet another manifestation of Cuba's indomitable support for and solidarity with the African people. (?May you) continue receiving a formal education without losing your Mozambican identity. [applause] [end recording]

Meets With Fidel Castro

FL2705135388 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 27 May 88

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has met with Salim Ahmed Salim, deputy prime minister and defense minister of the United Republic of Tanzania.

The meeting was held in a fraternal and friendly atmosphere. Topics related to the international situation, especially in Africa, and other matters of bilateral interest were discussed. The Cuban representation also included Army General Raul Castro Ruz, minister of the FAR, and Division General Ulises Rosales del Toro, first vice minister of the FAR and chief of the FAR General Staff.

Salim Ahmed Salim, defense minister of the United Republic of Tanzania, is heading a delegation from his country which is visiting Cuba.

Castro Meets With African Ambassadors

FL2605152088 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 26 May 88

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has received the African ambassadors to Cuba on the occasion of the the 25th anniversary of the founding of the OAU and Africa Day.

The Algerian ambassador and senior member of the African ambassadorial group, Hocine Zatout, thanked comrade Fidel for the opportunity to meet on this memorable occasion. Fidel emphasized the importance of the friendly meeting and reiterated Cuba's willingness to contribute to the search for a political solution in South Western Africa which would make Namibia's independence possible and guarantee the territorial integrity of Angola.

Our commander in chief's meeting with the African diplomatic corps in Cuba was held in a fraternal and friendly atmosphere.

Castro Meets With Ecuador's Abdala Bucaram

FL2605144188 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 26 May 88

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has received Dr Abdala Bucaram Ortiz, former presidential candidate of the Ecuadoran Roldosist party.

The two leaders discussed the international situation, Central America in particular; U.S. intervention in Panama's internal affairs; and other matters of regional interest.

Dr Bucaram heads his party's delegation which is touring Latin America.

Intergovernmental Meeting With CSSR Held

FL2305165088 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 23 May 88

[Text] Miroslav Toman, minister of agriculture and food of the CSSR, has arrived in Cuba. He will participate in the 12th session of the Cuba-CSSR Intergovernmental Commission for Economic and Scientific-Technical Cooperation.

Delegations Begin Meeting

FL2405004588 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 23 May 88

[Text] The 12th session of the Cuba-CSSR intergovernmental commission will analyze cooperation in the fields of energy, electricity, zoology, and mining. The commission began meeting today in the capital. The delegations are being presided over by Joel Domenech, member of the PCC Central Committee and vice president of the Council of State [as heard] of Cuba, and by Miroslav Toman, minister of agriculture and food of the CSSR.

Further on Discussions

LD2305203388 Prague CTK in English 1912 GMT 23 May 88

[Text] Havana May 23 (CTK correspondent)—The 12th session of the Czechoslovak-Cuban Committee for Economic and Scientific-Technological Cooperation started here today. The Czechoslovak delegation is headed by Minister of Agriculture and Food Miroslav Toman, the Cuban delegation by Vice-President of the Council of Ministers Joel Domenech Benitez.

They evaluated the positive development of economic and scientific-technological cooperation between the two countries since the 11th session in Czechoslovakia last year.

At the same time they discussed the tasks of the current period of cooperation and prospects for cooperation in the coming period, especially in the sphere of power engineering, minerals, geology, engineering, agriculture, pharmaceutical industry and electrical engineering.

Permanent working groups, which started their activity today will also discuss cooperation in the building industry.

The committee session will end on Thursday when a protocol is to be signed.

Cooperation Agreement Signed

FL2705144088 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 27 May 88

[Text] Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has received Miroslav Toman, minister of agriculture and food of the CSSR. Toman is in Cuba to attend the 12th session of the Cuba-CSSR Integovernmental Committee.

The activities of the Cuban-CSSR Intergovernmental Commission ended with the signing of a protocol for scientific-technical cooperation for the next period. The document was signed by Joel Domenech, vice president of the Council of Ministers of Cuba, and Miroslav Toman, minister of agriculture and food of the CSSR. Some of the concrete cooperation plans include the operation of the third 125-megawatt unit at the 10 October thermoelectric plant in Nuevitas, and the projects for the pumped-storage power plant in the Fomento region.

Further on Protocol

LD2705092688 Prague CTK in English 0821 GMT 27 May 88

[Text] Havana May 27 (CTK correspondent)—The 12th session of the Czechoslovak-Cuban Committee for Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation ended here Thursday by the signing of a final protocol.

The Czechoslovak delegation to the session, led by Minister of Agriculture and Food Miroslav Toman, left Cuba on the same day.

Prior to his departure the Czechoslovak minister was received by deputy chairman of the Cuban State Council and the Council of Ministers Carlos Rafael Rodriguez. He appreciated Czechoslovak-Cuban cooperation and expressed the conviction that this cooperation will further develop and that new modern methods will be implemented in it.

The document signed at the conclusion of the session provides for Czechoslovak-Cuban cooperation in drawing a project for a pumped-storage power plant in Cuba, in geological research in Cuba, in the production of equipment for railway and city transport, in the electrical engineering industry and other spheres.

Steps To Standardize Rectification Praised

FL2405180788 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 24 May 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] Our country has been attempting for several years now to modify some opinions, conduct, and habits of doing things a certain way in order to take a new road that will allow us to get much closer to socialism. This is what is known as the rectification process.

As Fidel has said, rectifying means finding new solutions to old problems. We need to instill in every citizen the simple truth that we are constructing a society in which everyone is in solidarity with everyone else. The new attitude will be transformed into daily actions.

It is not enough to be an excellent worker if in our cadres we do not fight against poor quality.

We want to introduce certain rectifying ideas in the economic sphere.

It is not a matter of drawing up and regulating a rampant egalitarianism because we know we are in the socialist phase of the new collectivity we are building.

It is necessary to award those who make the greatest efforts, all those who truly give more support to society.

It is a matter of not awarding those who have not earned it or, because of the type of task they are fulfilling, should receive a different type of incentive.

The PCC Politburo has taken important steps to standardize the rectification process. Rectification cannot be accomplished in 1 day or 1 year. The new attitude cannot be instilled by decree and many of us will need much time to understand its complete significance.

The economic sphere is important because in socialism the workers themselves are the ones responsible for production. We have only that which we are able to create.

Together we will forge a new destiny for the enjoyment of all.

Castro Sends Message to Granma Peasants

FL2605160588 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 26 May 88

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the PCC Central Committee and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has sent a warm greeting to the citizens of the Vegas de Jibacoa zone on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of his historic meeting with the mountain peasants in that dense area of Granma Province.

The message, which was also addressed to those who participated in the meeting, was given by Orlando Lugo Fonte, PCC Central Committee member and President of the ANAP [National Association of Small Farmers], during the closing of the ceremony. The event was also presided over by Roberto Damian Alfonso, PCC Central Committee member and first secretary of the party provincial committee in Granma.

Briefs

Trade Protocol With Uruguay

Enterprise representatives from Cuba and Uruguay have signed in Montevideo a protocol to increase bilateral trade. The text includes three basic points: Expansion of Uruguayan financing, increase of Cuban exports, and a search for a solution to merchandise transportation problems. The document also considers the new items which will be included in the liberalization of tariffs. [Text] [*FL2505185788 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 25 May 88*]

Aruba

Netherlands Patrols Area for Cartel Actions

FL2505162788 Hilversum International Service in English 1030 GMT 25 May 88

[Text] A Dutch naval vessel has been sent from the Netherlands Antilles to the island of Aruba following a request for assistance from the Aruban governor.

The request was made out of fear that the infamous Colombian drug mafia, the cartel of Medellin, is about to launch actions against Aruba. A suspected member of the cartel, (Alvaro Quillana), was jailed 9 days ago in Aruba and the United States has asked for his extradition.

In the past, the Colombian drug lords have used violence to secure the release of jailed cartel members.

The Dutch naval vessel will patrol the waters around Aruba for an indefinite period.

Dominican Republic

12th Round of Tripartite Talks Begin 24 May

FL2405230088 Santo Domingo Radio Mil Network in Spanish 2130 GMT 24 May 88

[Report by Eugenio Ferran from the St Thomas Aquinas Campus of Madre Maestra Catholic University]

[Text] Representatives of the government, businessmen, and trade unions just began the 12th round of tripartite talks in search for a solution to the economic and social problems affecting the country. However, it is thought that an impasse could take place during the course of this round of negotiations on the matter of salaries. The government is maintaining its position of not increasing salaries to the workers of the state's decentralized enterprises. The trade unions are affirming that they will not sign any salary agreement that excludes those workers.

During the last round of talks, the businessmen, government, and trade unions had reached a consensus to establish a minimum wage of 500 pesos a month and an adjustment of 150 pesos for employees of the public and private sector who make between 501 and 1,500 pesos per month.

Msgr Agripino Nunez Collado is acting as mediator representing the Catholic Church during this round of talks. Before the talks began, he said he was very hopeful that a salary agreement would be signed today.

Agreement Reached

FL2505194288 Santo Domingo Radio Mil Network in Spanish 1725 GMT 25 May 88

[Text] The United Confederation of Workers [Central Unitaria de Trabajadores—CUT] has said the 7-point tripartite agreement reached at the last round of talks is positive.

Nevertheless, the CUT warns that the business sector now has to (?fulfill) the agreement reached with the Catholic Church, which has been acting as the mediator.

The CUT said the terms of the agreement have a legal basis.

On Tuesday the sectors participating in the tripartite talks signed an agreement establishing a minimum wage of 500 pesos for private sector workers.

A draft law was also approved at the talks that would modify legislation on [words indistinct] to institute a wage (?adjustment) for all public and private workers.

According to the CUT, the most important point agreed upon is the revision of Articles 72 and 78 of the labor code, which guarantee trade union membership for all workers.

In addition, the tripartite agreement recommends that social security increase workers pensions to a minimum of 275 pesos.

Details of Pact

FL2505202988 Santo Domingo Radio Mil Network in Spanish 1729 GMT 25 May 88

[Text] The trade union organizations participating in the tripartite negotiations continue to demand a price freeze on basic goods and improved services to the population, such as electricity, transportation, and potable water.

After 2 months of negotiations, the trade unions, government, and business sector are planning to sign a 7-point agreement on Thursday [26 May] which they reached Tuesday night.

Minimum wages of 350 and 500 pesos a month were agreed upon for the private business sector where capital exceeds 100,000 pesos. Increases were also approved for workers and employees who earn up to 1,500 pesos a month.

The other points encompass social security benefits for workers' families, revision of income tax laws, and the revision of the labor code in reference to trade union activities. The accord also allows for the participation of employers and workers in official organizations that are of interest to them and the revision of (?the law) pertaining to workers who retired from the insurance sector.

It was also agreed to establish a permanent secretariat for the tripartite talks which would be directed by its own guidelines.

For their part, trade union leaders have insisted that workers employed by decentralized state firms be included in the approved salary adjustments.

Haiti

Anti-Manigat Tracts Appear in Thomonde

FL2405204488 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 24 May 88

[Excerpts] [Announcer] For the second time this year, anti-Manigat tracts have appeared on walls in Hinche, in the upper central plateau. Let's listen to Alex Joseph:

[Joseph] The big news in the central plateau is in Thomonde, where an antigovernment tract has again appeared for the second time since Prof Leslie F. Manigat came to power.

The following slogans are on the tract: Down with Manigat and the Venezuelan Army. Uproot your cassava plants and move on. Long live the Haitian Army.

There are many other slogans on other tracts. There are many antigovernment tracts circulating in Thomonde at present.

There is much talk all over the central plateau, following the appearance of these tracts, particularly in Hinche. We are following events. [passage omitted]

[Announcer] Correction: The Manigat tracts appeared in Thomonde.

Overseas MOP Members Call for Party Convention

FL2405211288 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 24 May 88

[Text] Stirrings within the MOP [Movement for the Organization of the Country]: The overseas branch of the democratic party MOP is asking the board of directors to immediately organize a convention for the purpose of electing a new executive committee.

The decision to call for a MOP convention was reached following a special assembly of the overseas branch held a week ago. It is based on Article 27 of the party statutes.

The New York branch of the MOP says in support of its declaration that there is nothing in the law governing the functioning of political parties in Haiti to prevent members of the diaspora from participating fully and freely in all manifestations of the life of the MOP or from occupying any MOP executive office to which they might be elected, according to their achievements and their competence.

The MOP's overseas branch says that the party's statutes provide for the organizing of such a convention yearly in order to rule on party affairs.

Since MOP members have equal rights regardless of whether they are inside or outside Haiti, they can consequently occupy any position within the executive committee or any other party body, they say.

During an assembly held in New York, the MOP's participation in the Celestin/Manigat government was analyzed and interpreted as a gesture in keeping with the critical juncture and born of a patriotic desire to preserve threatened national sovereignty. Nevertheless, this explanation did not prevent (Gerard Grandchamp) of the MOP to note with regret that the 65 days of Mr Celestin's minister of agriculture have shown none of the dynamism and determination of the 65 days of Dumarsais Estime's minister of education, MOP founder Prof Daniel Fignole.

(Grandchamp) asks: So tell us, Mr Minister, what are you doing? The party must be informed as to what there is that is positive about your presence within the Celestin government, to historically justify this cohabitation of more than 2 months.

In an editorial in the bulletin ETENDARD MOPIQUE published in New York, another MOP member, Fritz Simon, denounced the constraints of a temporary cohabitation imposed by the circumstances and violently stigmatized those who have deserted—and I quote—a good cause for a plate of lentils and those who, through lack of awareness or incompetence, have preferred to seek a problematic security in a certain type of cohabitation. Simon warned: The MOP is alive and well, end quote.

Being essentially democratic, the MOP must disengage itself from a government policy of a totalitarian nature, says the MOP's overseas branch in New York in this resolution, which was adopted last 15 May.

Jamaica

Seaga Announces Increase in Minimum Wage

FL2605190288 Bridgetown CANA in English 1636 GMT 23 May 88

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, May 23, CANA—Jamaica Prime Minister Edward Seaga has announced a J20 dollar (one J dollar—18 US cents) weekly increase in the national minimum wage and pension hikes of up to 100 per cent for former government employees in a package of benefits for workers.

Made by Seaga in a radio and television address Sunday night, the announcements were to coincide with Monday's celebration of Labour Day in Jamaica and in keeping with promises made earlier in the year when the government promulgated 1988 as the Year of the Worker to mark the 50th anniversary of the birth of the modern trade union movement here.

The package also includes plans to increase the level of redundancy payments to workers no longer wanted by their employers, to bring under the government's pension scheme some of the employees previously excluded and to appoint to their posts many who have acting posts in the civil service.

The programme follows an announcement in last month's budget for significant increases in welfare payments to the elderly and the poor and a job scheme for rural areas.

Seaga had said that the government could now afford the programmes after years of austerity during which several thousand jobs were cut in the public sector, because of the hardships suffered to bring the fiscal accounts back into line and a return to economic growth here. But his critics were likely to charge it was part of a vote-catching exercise with general elections likely to be held here this year, analysts said.

The announcement likely to have the most immediate and significant impact is the June 6 increase in the minimum wage. For household helpers this will move from J52 dollars weekly to J72 dollars, rising to J84

dollars from January next year. The minimum wage for other categories of labourer will move from J60 dollars a week to J80 dollars then to J200 dollars from January 2, 1988. While a significant portion of the employees in this category earn more than the minimum wage, several thousand earn the basic level.

Under the scheme to increase pension payments, persons who retired from government employment up to the end of December will from October have a pension increase of 100 per cent, Seaga announced. Persons retiring each year after 1966 will have an increase of five per cent lower for each year up to 1985—the person who retired in 1967 will have an increase of 95 per cent while the one who retired in 1985 will have a five per cent raise. Seaga said that increases would be applied every five years with the group receiving the 100 per cent hike also advancing by five years. Hence in 1993 all pensioners retiring up to 1972 will receive 100 per cent, reducing by five per cent annually to a five per cent increase for retirees in the year 1990, he said.

Seaga said the government would amend the Redundancy Act to provide three weeks pay for every year of service over 10 years, against the current two weeks per year. The prime minister said 17,000 government employees—some of who already contribute to a provident fund—will be brought under a pension scheme. Of over 4,000 temporary employees in the civil service 2,000 will from August be made permanent, followed by a few hundred more over the next year while others will be given study opportunities in order to qualify for permanent employment. Accredited trade union delegates will also be given time off with pay—up to two months a time—to undertake trade union courses.

Central Bank Allowed To Draw Funds From IMF

FL2605183088 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 26 May 88

[Text] The Central Bank in Jamaica says the country has successfully completed its stand-by program with the IMF by passing the March economic performance test.

Central Bank Governor (Hedley Brown) said this means Jamaica will be able to draw $20 million from the IMF by the end of the month. Jamaica passed the March test because exports were up and imports were down.

Briefs

AIDS Cases Diagnosed

Five more Jamaicans have been diagnosed as having the deadly disease AIDS during the past 2 weeks. So far, of the 51 Jamaicans diagnosed as having the disease, 42 are dead. [Text] [*FL2305183288 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 23 May 88*]

St Vincent and the Grenadines

Senator Resigns in 'National Interest'

FL2505004088 Bridgetown CANA in English 2037 GMT 24 May 88

[Text] Kingstown, St Vincent, May 24, CANA—Senator Randolph Kydd is resigning after serving almost a year and a half, saying that he was stepping down to facilitate the appointment of a lawyer to the government benches.

Kydd, who was appointed in January last year as one of four government senators in the House of Assembly, has indicated to Prime Minister James Mitchell that he intends to resign from May 31.

A government spokesman noted that Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs Parnel Campbell was the only lawyer in Prime Minister James Mitchell's administration and that Carlyle Dougan's pending appointment as a senator would now clear the way for him to act in the office whenever Campbell was required to be away for one reason or another.

Mitchell praised Kydd for resigning in the wider national interest, adding that it was an act of statesmanship.

Trinidad and Tobago

Manning Questions Robinson Remarks on Trips

FL2505201588 Bridgetown CANA in English 1711 GMT 23 May 88

[Excerpts] Port of Spain, Trinidad, May 23, CANA—Both the United States Information Service (USIS) in Port of Spain and the main opposition party have questioned statements made by Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson.

Robinson had warned members of his ruling National Alliance for Reconstructions (NAR) there was a threat of foreign forces moving in should a split appear in his 17-month administration.

In a speech which followed the suspension of five members of his party, Robinson had said: That's why so many invitations to different countries, that's why people are able to spend money on members of parliament going abroad.

How is it that members of parliament can go abroad just like that? He asked. Where are they getting the money from? All these things are matters of our concern, Robinson had told an enthusiastic party audience.

His comments followed two recent trips abroad by opposition leader Patrick Manning to the United States and to Britain.

His American trip had been under a U.S. organised visitors programme which the USIS defended in a statement issued at the weekend. [passage omitted]

Manning also took up the comments, claiming that Robinson had chosen to attack him and the former governor of the Central Bank Dr. Euric Bobb after being outmaneuvered in parliament.

Manning pointed to Robinson's comments questioning where the money came from for such overseas visits.

Those are serious accusations against a friendly government, and I wonder whether Mr. Robinson is signalling some change in the nature of the relationship of his government with the Government of the United States, Manning said in a statement.

Manning said Robinson's conduct continued to give cause for concern.

By uttering threats against Dr. Bobb and his unfounded accusations [of] me, Mr. Robinson continues to bring the office of prime minister into disrepute, Manning said.

Manning also filed two questions based on the comments for oral answer in the House of Representatives, asking for the names of all guests of foreign governments going abroad over the last two years and a definition of Trinidad's current relationship with the United States.

Water Rationing Imposed Due to Dry Spell
FL2605181488 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 26 May 88

[Text] In Trinidad and Tobago water rationing has been imposed. The lack of rainfall has depleted the four main reservoirs. Food crop and dairy farmers have been severely hit by the dry spell as springs and rivers have dried up as well, and brush fires have been burning vegetation on the hillsides.

El Salvador

FDR's Ungo Arrives, Comments on Dialogue

PA2605162588 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 26 May 88

[Report by Alfredo Villarreal]

[Excerpt] FDR President Guillermo Manuel Ungo arrived from Panama on Wednesday in order to increase coordination among the country's various representative sectors. He said during a news conference that he will try to present a more specific proposal for a dialogue to achieve a national consensus for the resolution of the country's current crisis. This will be possible, Ungo said, by increasing contacts with political parties that, along with President Duarte, have refused to talk with the FDR-FMLN.

Commenting on this refusal, Guillermo said the parties' attitude is not to their advantage because it will lead to the continuation of hostilities. This is the best time for the talks, he said, contrary to the arguments presented by the three majority parties and the president, who held their last meeting at the Presidential Palace on Tuesday.

[Begin Ungo recording] We need more in-depth information about this situation. I am surprised that the Armed Forces are acting on their own. I need to find out more about this decision and who makes such decisions. I do not think it is to their advantage to be so categorical, because this looks very bad from the viewpoint of Esquipulas II, which is in force. This is a life and death issue, the life and death of Salvadorans, of the national economy, of the Salvadoran social sectors [words indistinct]. [end recording]

In addition, the MNR [National Revolutionary Movement] secretary said that violence will not be increased in response to the absence of dialogue between the political groups, government, and the FDR-FMLN, but that the war could be stepped up and have greater influence on the nation's socio-economic system.

[Begin Ungo recording] I believe that violence per se will not be increased because of this. There are other factors that will lead us—if there is no political solution, dialogue, or negotiation—to the opposite: greater political openings, greater popular participation, a tendency toward greater repression, and an intensification of the war. [sentence as heard] [end recording] [passage omitted]

Nicaragua

RN Presents Proposal To Government at Talks

PA2705033188 Paris AFP in Spanish 2210 GMT 26 May 88

[Excerpts] Managua, 26 May (AFP)—Today the Nicaraguan contras offered to lay down their weapons if, in 60 days, bases are established for a new institutional order in Nicaragua to include a timetable to elect a constituent assembly before 31 January 1989.

The proposal, which also demands an immediate amnesty for all political prisoners and an end to the obligatory military service, was presented by the Nicaraguan Resistance (RN) Directorate at the beginning of the fourth round of direct talks for a definitive cease-fire within the framework of the 23 March Sapoa agreements. [passage omitted]

To begin with, the rebels proposed the implementation of a total amnesty in the coming 5 days and the opening of a tripartite dialogue (government, internal opposition, and contras) which, in 60 days, must adopt a number of "political and military decisions" to establish a new institutional order.

Outstanding among these decisions are the elimination of the obligatory military service and the granting of total guarantees for the exercise of "unrestricted freedom of expression, including the opening and maintaining of private television channels."

The national tripartite dialogue must also lead to the "separation and independence of the state powers," ensuring the "equality of citizens before the law and total respect for human rights."

Mechanisms must also be created to "eradicate any coercive force that compels (Nicaraguans) to belong to the Sandinist mass organizations" and to "provide for the separation of the Army and the police from any connection with party or political activities," subjecting them to civilian rule.

On labor aspects, the RN proposal demands guarantees for respect for the right to strike and the labor code, while, in judicial aspects, it demands "legal guarantees that will permit a fair trial."

However, the contras' principal demands are centered on the electoral political field, where they demand that a timetable be established to elect a constituent assembly, municipal authorities, and representatives to the Central American parliament, whose creation is contained in the Esquipulas II peace plan.

The RN pledges to "integrate its forces into the country's new institutional life, in accordance with the established timetable, and they demand it be fulfilled before 31 January 1989."

The rebel proposal reiterates the designation of Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo and OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soares as members of a commission that will be in charge of verifying the fulfillment of the commitments.

Sixty days following the national dialogue proposed by the contras, Obando y Bravo and Baena will have 2 weeks to certify that the agreements have been fulfilled

The contras commit themselves to maintaining the truce agreed upon in Sapoa, which has been in force since 1 April, while the national tripartite dialogue is held over a 60-day period. However, they do not indicate when the guerrillas will lay down their weapons "definitively" in the event the Sandinists accept their demands. [passage omitted]

Colonel Bermudez' participation in the negotiations gave rise to fierce attacks by the progovernment press, which repudiated his presence in Managua, labeling him a "killer of women and children." [passage omitted]

This is the first time the ranking contra military leader has participated in the peace negotiations with the government, now led politically by Alfredo Cesar in place of Adolfo Calero, who did not travel to Managua for this fourth round of talks.

Government Attacks Plan

PA2605201788 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1839 GMT 26 May 88

[Statement by Manuel Espinoza, information and press minister, at Las Mercedes Hotel in Managua—live]

[Text] Gentlemen of the press, I wish to brief you on what has happened during this first phase of the fourth round of talks between the Nicaraguan Government delegation and the counterrevolutionary delegation.

A few minutes ago, the counterrevolutionary delegation presented what they have been announcing as their comprehensive proposal. It is a 3 and 1/2 page document. The Nicaraguan delegation was given a copy. This document is a provocation; it is a proposal that is contrary to peacemaking efforts, Esquipulas II, and the Sapoa agreement. The proposal sets Sapoa aside and disregards all that has been agreed upon in accordance with the Sapoa agreement. They have made new proposals.

They will probably come out here and explain their proposal to you, but we wish to denounce the counterrevolutionaries' position to the Nicaraguan people and the world. Their proposal, as Alfredo Cesar said earlier, is aimed at killing Sapoa. Cesar said earlier that Sapoa was on its death bed. They have disregarded Sapoa and have presented a new proposal that is outside the current efforts to achieve peace and prevent further bloodshed and clashes.

We only wanted to let you know that the counterrevolutionary delegation has presented a provocative document that does not contribute to the peacemaking efforts being made since the signing of the Esquipulas II agreement. The Nicaraguan Government is bent on abiding by Esquipulas II. It has fulfilled its part, and this was announced by the International Verification Commission.

RN's Cesar Responds

PA2705032588 Paris AFP in Spanish 0208 GMT 27 May 88

[Excerpts] Managua, 26 May (AFP)—The Nicaraguan Resistance (RN) has said the proposal it submitted today to reach a permanent cease-fire in Nicaragua is subject to discussion. The RN noted that it does not mean "an ultimatum" for the Nicaraguan Government, as the government delegation interpreted it.

Alfredo Cesar, who is heading the contra delegation at the fourth round of top-level negotiations, said the proposal is a point of negotiation, since "the Sapoa agreements expire" on 31 May. [passage omitted]

Cesar said although Esquipulas II recognized the legitimacy of the five Central American governments, "this does not mean that the current Nicaraguan Constitution is sufficiently acceptable to us" for the guerrillas to join civilian life. The RN leader said that the rebels will lay down their weapons as of 15 May [as received], if a timetable for democratization is established that will culminate with elections. Cesar held a news conference when the first session of the dialogue ended tonight.

Meanwhile, Commander Enrique Bermudez, the contra military chief who is participating for the first time in the negotiations, said he feels satisfied with the climate in which the meeting was held. [passage omitted]

The rebel leaders are planning to attend a meeting tonight with the Nicaragua Democratic Coordinating Board, which includes political parties and trade unions as well as the Higher Council of Private Enterprise (COSEP). The RN leaders are scheduled to visit the LA PRENSA newspaper tomorrow. The meeting with the government delegation will resume at 0900.

D'Escoto Protests Boat Attack From Honduras

PA2605223488 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1130 GMT 26 May 88

[Note sent by Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto to Honduran Foreign Minister Carlos Lopez Contreras on 24 May]

[Text] Managua, 24 May 1988

Your Excellency, Foreign Minister Carlos Lopez Contreras, Tegucigalpa, Honduras

Mr Minister:

I address Your Excellency to report the following:

At 0630 on 22 May, two piranha-type boats coming from Honduran territory attacked the El Maranonal coastal observation post, located 5 km northwest of Potosi in Chinandega Department. The attackers fired two M-79

rounds and bursts from M-60 machine guns. The response of the Army troops at the post forced the boats to return to their place of origin in Honduras.

The aforementioned events force me to vigorously protest to the Honduran Government this aggression against my country. This aggression shows that Honduran territory is again being used as a base and sanctuary for attacks on Nicaraguan soil through piranha-type boats.

Actions such as those described also show the Honduran Government is not willing to comply with the international commitments it has contracted at both the international and inter-American levels. This conduct is also incompatible with the Esquipulas II accords, which establish immediate and unavoidable obligations on the Honduran Government.

I take this opportunity to reiterate to Your Excellency my respects.

[Signed] Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto Brockman

'Important' Contra Chief Accepts Amnesty

PA2605223988 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1956 GMT 26 May 88

[Report from Las Mercedes Hotel in Managua]

[Text] This is an urgent, last-minute report: A man known as Alfa Lima, the most important chieftain of the Jorge Salazar Operational Command, has given up the fight. The man who is in charge of the Jorge Salazar Operational Command—which comrises several counterrevolutionary regional commands and operates in Regions 5 and 6—has turned himself in. According to the reports we have received, he is traveling to Managua today to formalize his situation.

We repeat: The most important chieftain of the Jorge Salazar Operational Command, which operates in Regions 5 and 6, has turned himself in. He has decided to accept amnesty and might be in Managua in a few minutes, making statements to the press or turning himself over to the corresponding authorities in order to formalize his acceptance of the amnesty process in Nicaragua.

Panama

Noriega Addresses Assembly on Talks With U.S.

PA2605232588 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 2140 GMT 26 May 88

[Speech by General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces (FDP), at the Legislative Assembly in Panama City—live]

[Text] Honorable president of the Legislative Assembly, honorable members of the parliament of the constitutional Republic of Panama:

At this hour of the peoples of the Americas and of the world, in this place that is called Panama, which is the last trench of dignity in the struggle for sovereignty and self-determination of peoples, I address you with all due respect. I want to establish the precedent that in Panama, the military men and the uniform at the service of this people are not afraid to make an appearance and speak about any topic of the Panamanian nation. [applause; slogans]

We are not an armed forces that interfere in the destinies of the peoples of the Americas. We are not an armed forces that prepare psychological wars or aggressions against the weak countries of Central America. We belong to an armed forces that come from the people, are of the people, remain with the people, and will support the people. [applause]

I am here because of the great respect we have and I have for the parliaments of the world, as true political expressions of sovereign peoples. Unlike other parliaments of other powerful countries, this Panamanian parliament takes into consideration in its ranks and seats the minorities, such as the Indians, who have not been exterminated here in Panama; and the women, who are respected and admired here. [applause, cheers] I feel linked to this parliament, because since I took over the post of commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces when the 1984 electoral process began, we have become an important support for defining the process' formation and upholding its right to exist as the true voice of the Panamanian people.

Just as Bolivar forecast the threats to Latin American integration and convoked the Amphictyonic Congress in June 1980... [corrects himself] 1826 in our country in order to defend himself from the colossus of the north, we feel inspired in that Bolivarian ideal to tell you the feelings of the people, who are working people and are being attacked today.

Ever since the Torrijos-Carter Treaties, Panama has been subject to political, economic, diplomatic, and military attacks from the United States, behind the backs of the U.S. society and the U.S. people. Subsequently State Department officials have acted with the same evil and cruelty that Elliott Abrams has shown against the Panamanian people and with the same lies that Elliott Abrams has told his superiors. The product of those lies is this aggression.

The United States has ridiculed what it has signed; it has mocked the signing of the Torrijos-Carter Treaties, and that is where the aggression began.

As a statement today, I want to tell you that the FDP will never permit the destruction of the Panamanians' ideals and their desire for sovereignty and dignity, because Panamanians today cannot mortgage the heritage of the coming and future generations. I want to remind the U.S. people and the candidates who are using Panama's flag

to win votes of the words by one of their philosophers, Thomas Jefferson, who said: Politicians think about the coming elections; statesmen think about the coming generations. [applause]

The world must know that the talks with President Reagan's envoy failed when the envoy gave us an ultimatum in which Panama had to agree immediately to the last proposal; otherwise, it would be withdrawn. I am fully aware of this; I am saying this because I was there! George Shultz was not there! On several occasions, Panama agreed to changes proposed by the U.S. Vice President's advisers that were to protect his presidential campaign. However, this was not sufficient either. The United States wanted an immediate acceptance of the ultimatum in order to bury—within the news that would come from Moscow—the points agreed upon during the talks. I am sure this was done with the hope that all this would be forgotten. The talks were always focused on seeking the Panamanian people's benefit. The United States focused them toward an electoral campaign. Is this what the U.S. style of democracy seeks—political, presidential, and personal gains placed before the national interest of their own country?

Panama seeks a democratic solution according to its own image and likeness. Panama and its FDP seek not the solution of one man, not a deal [preceding word in English] with Noriega, as they say. Noriega is a Panamanian citizen, Noriega is one of the 2 million inhabitants of Panama, and he cannot mortgage his personal aspects [personalismo] for the freedom and justice of the Panamanian people. [applause].

Noriega is not the problem. Noriega is not the problem; the problem is the Panamanian people's dignity. The problem is the economic aggression against Panama, the psychological and armed aggression against 2 million peaceful citizen-friends of the United States. Sirs, that is the problem. The problem is not personal satisfaction, which I have never sought and will never seek. [applause]

The problem is they sowed disinformation, and they are harvesting frustration. [shouts, applause] It is important to clarify that the initial approach came from the United States, and not as a mutual arrangement to reach an agreement between the parties. In this long and widespread war—which began in June through the intervention of the U.S. Embassy in this country; through the advice of the embassy's second in charge, Mr John Maisto; and through the mind of the U.S. ambassador to Panama, Mr Davis—contradictory reports have been sent to the State Department in Washington. Those two men are responsible for the conflict between the Panamanian people and the State Department. Those two men—who sent people to the Philippines to study how the Philippines was destroyed and how Marcos was ousted—were the ones who began the destabilization problem.

The initial proposals called for my withdrawal from the FDP leadership and a golden exile in a distant country. When the situation changed because of their unsuccessful handling of the Panamanian situation, the United States made new proposals: the dropping of personal charges, the suspension of the economic aggression against Panama, leaving the FDP alone, and continuing to recognize Delvalle, but accepting President Manuel Solis Palma. [pauses]

In the process of answering questions, Mr President and honorable legislators, we first saw the arrival of a commission we had not requested. On 17 March, Mr William Walker and Kozak came here as part of that commission making proposals that harmed and humbled the dignity of all Panamanians and the Panamanian people. By means of an ultimatum, they said we had to whitewash and save the faces of their candidates. Panama flatly rejected that ultimatum. The ultimatum also called for the destruction of the political forces that comprise the revolutionary process, the people's forces, and Panamanian labor unions. It called for a new system and a new type of government, which logically meant the destruction of all gains achieved by the Torrijos process from 1969 to the present. It was a new plan drafted by the Panamanian oligarchy, which refuses to fight for political power at the polls on 7 May 1989.

Since 15 April, talks were held in which Mr Romulo Escobar—who had worked with Mr Kozak on the Torrijos-Carter Treaties—participated. I greeted Mr Kozak in the first meeting, and they continued to talk. The principal that only talks would take place was always upheld. It was done this way because we had talked with many Latin American leaders. We had accepted the views of many observers and many Latin Americans who wanted solutions for the Panamanian crisis. Since we saw there was an opportunity to find peace in this war, which they had promoted, we continued to hold talks. We reached a basic doctrinal understanding: There would be no agreement on the six points if even one of the points was not accepted.

The proposals made by the Panamanian representatives to the U.S. envoy in the talks and not in the negotiations are the ones calling for agreements that must favor the national interests of Panama: the immediate suspension of the economic aggression by the United States and the withdrawal of excess U.S. troops and equipment from our territory, except for the ones stated in the Torrijos-Carter Treaties. We demand that the talks be held in the framework of mutual respect. In those talks, one thing must be made clear: The Panamanian political solution must be the result of the policy of the Panamanian people and should take Panama's national interests into account. The talks must be held on the basis that Panama's problems must be resolved by Panamanians themselves and that all measures that may be taken internally in the resolution of the crisis must be in observance of FDP regulations and in support of the national dialogues called by the president.

The agreement must include the participation of the country's popular sectors. Their participation is essential, because the Panamanian people's principles of sovereignty and self-determination are unyielding and not negotiable.

We also demanded respect for and rectification of violations of the Torrijos-Carter Treaties. We also demanded an end to the freezing of the funds of the Panamanian people and nation, which belong to no person, family, name, surname, or man. [applause]

We see that U.S. television and the candidates are hoisting the Panamanian flag as they please or as it best suits them. We Panamanians—and I apologize to foreign citizens for our ignorance—cannot conceive of why a Panamanian presidential candidate would try to resolve Colombian or Costa Rican problems. Forgive our ignorance, but we fail to understand why the deluxe U.S. candidates do not try to find solutions for the problems of the blacks in New York, of the downtrodden class, of the minorities, of those who do not have air... [corrects himself] heaters, of the farmers, wetbacks [preceding word in English], immigrants, of those who do not have a roof in the United States, of the poor. Why not try to end violence in the streets and support American women? Why not raise those beautiful flags in the United States instead of meddling in the Panamanian problem? Gentlemen, this we do not understand. [applause]

Violence in Chicago streets and discrimination against black minorities in New York are such beautiful topics for democracy. They are exemplary struggles for the entire world—while the subject of Panama is not. If the Panamanian issue is going to be used as propaganda by candidates who want to hide their own problems, by candidates who want to bury files that are too burdensome for that democracy, they should not use Panama. They should look for Iran or Iran's gate [preceding word in English]. [applause]

If they want to save someone from an indictment, why not save Oliver North? [applause] Or Poindexter? The deal [preceding word in English] should be with Oliver North or Poindexter. [applause]

Panama is a peaceful, respectful country. No U.S. citizen has ever had any problem here. U.S. citizens have not been kidnapped or murdered in the streets. Their embassy here has not been burned as in Honduras. So, respect Panama, gentlemen. Respect us. [applause]

I want to warn U.S. society that they are being disinformed by an apparatus of psychological war, by a communications system initially devised by Elliott Abrams. U.S. society: Demand an explanation from Elliott Abrams. [applause]

Also, gentlemen, here they have the worst diplomatic representation. Not even General Stroessner in Paraguay was able to put up with Abrams for 24 hours... [corrects himself] I mean he could not stand Arthur Davis—well, it is the same thing. Not even Stroessner could that.

However, the problem was this: In order to make a good impression and to generate good electoral capital, it was very attractive to make up a fantasy about Panama. If the newspapers and the television stations did not report the money laundering in Europe and Asia, and instead reported about corruption at U.S. Customs and among U.S. authorities—for the majority who takes the world as the government portrays it—a triumph over drugs has more value if they make people believe the problem is not there, but is instead in Panama. Can you imagine what it means for the U.S. elections to show presidents as trophies of war and to show those presidents as the losers? This is why each one of them was giving the greatest blows. Roman emperors made big triumphs out of captive generals whenever they had political problems. There were huge public ceremonies to distract the people's attention and leave them satisfied. The parade of the defeated was used so no one would think about the true problems, the errors, and the solutions. However, the fantasy had to be staged in spite of everything. It had to be reported in the media throughout the world and on television. However, everything was based on the statement: A U.S. State Department official said; a former Defense Department official; a former CIA member said; some diplomats said. Many people believed this, particularly those who think U.S. Administration officials and former officials are all like George Washington, who said he never told a lie.

Their problem was that no fantasy can change reality, not even with the press reporting the fantasy. Their psychological war strategies forgot about a basic principle: You cannot deceive an entire nation about their reality, because they are seeing it. Therefore, they were unable to create a strong opposition, so the plan failed.

Panamanian people already know that when the United States signed the Torrijos-Carter Treaties and before the treaties were implemented, the United States approved Law 96-70, which is nothing but a violation. Hence, the system of violations of the treaty began when President Carter signed the treaty. Panama and Torrijos trusted the United States, and all Panamanians trusted that there was a great treaty. Thus we lowered our guard, as did the peasants, the labor leaders, the students, and all Panamanian people. There was no follow-up; then suddenly, when the Manuel Jose Hurtado School students were going to go to Ancon Hill, they realized they could not do so because Ancon Hill did not belong to Panama. To get there—at the site where the Panamanian flag is—it was necessary to get a helicopter or use a rope to climb the hill. Otherwise, they had to wait for the U.S. Army permit so they could pass through the Quarry Heights gate. In the same way, all these evolutions are within the framework of the beginning of the aggression against Panama. When people protest, when Latin American

leaders raise their voice above threats and above fear, then those men must be persecuted, demoralized, and discredited, because they are a bad example—as Poindexter said when he came here on 12 December.

Later, at the crest of the Irangate wave, Poindexter showed up in Panama to ask the FDP and Panama to participate and contribute in the aggression against a Central American country, Nicaragua. At that moment, an angry young FDP officer stood up and said no to Poindexter. Poindexter then made his threat: Now you will know what price you will pay for speaking out loud in Contadora and for creating a defense force that is a bad example for the rest of the Central American and Latin American armed forces. Now you will know what it is like to be like Mexico, which is not contributing to the plans of invasion and aggression against other peoples. We saw the continuation of the aggression and the plan against those leaders who spoke out loud against [as heard] the country that had dignity and that believed in the principes of nonalignment and self-determination, and against the country that has already been a colony and thus is not afraid of colonialism. [applause]

When Panama upheld the principle—despite the great machinations, lobbying, and efforts carried out by the oligarchy and the U.S. Embassy—that the School of the Americas had to revert to Panama, and when President Jorge Illueca signed the decree by which the School of the Americas and Fort Gullick reverted to Panama, the residents of Colon Province did not die. When they used the sophism that if the School of the Americas were to leave, the millions they said they gave the Colon people would also be gone, we discovered that even the bread had been brought over from the United States. Colon had not been receiving anything except for the payroll of the 40 Anais [San Blas Indians] who worked in the School of the Americas.

Now we have a reverted School of the Americas, which is now called Jose Domingo Espinar, and which has a nationalist spirit. The men and soldiers who live there purchase things in Colon and sleep in Colon and hire people from Colon.

We have seen that the evolution of the aggression continues as long as Panama maintains an international dignity in the forums of Contadora and as long as the date approaches for the appointment of a new canal administrator, who as director will uphold Panama's position and who will see to it that the U.S. participation in the management of the canal decreases.

All of these details are part of the scheme that blew up in a crisis. This scheme includes the great investments made to buy the consciences of evil Panamanians to whom the United States offered to surrender the military bases after the year 2000 if they were heading the government. They would surrender them just as those who signed the 1904 Buneau-Varilla treaty did.

The capitalist development of the United States after the second half of the 19th century, with its needs for territorial expansion at the expense of its immediate neighbors—first Mexico, and then the rest of Latin America and the Caribbean, regarded as its backyard—served as the base for this policy of domination. This is a policy theoretically based on the Monroe Doctrine of 1823, which simply means: America for the United States. There is the so-called manifest destiny doctrine, in which the destiny is translated into the concept whereby the U.S. natural sphere of influence covers Latin America and the Caribbean, with no exceptions.

There is an economic and a political reason for these U.S. actions. The economic reason is domination and colonialism. The political reason is the electoral stage. Votes are won through wars. Fantasies appear now when mankind is approaching a world without wars. They invent huge hazards in small countries so they can smash them and then present the defeated as an electoral trophy. Many people like to feel they have a government that destroys monsters, and when they find no easy monsters nearby, they must invent them. This is what Elliott Abrams did. This is a very attractive electoral fantasy. However, many people cannot discern between the official lies and the world's reality. For the sake of peace, for the progress of all, and for international harmony, it is much more effective to portray reality as it is and deal with it face to face. The U.S. people have many friends, but they are only allowed to see the fantasy.

We feel that the Panamanian people are paying a steep price for the bad information and the bad decisions of the United States. They [the United States] have turned a friendly country such as ours into a country full of resentment. They have prepared the ground for the year 2000. There are youths here who have already received a bitter gift and an experience from the United States. There are the children who will be the youths in the year 2001—all those who are now under the protection of the stars and stripes in Washington will not be around in the year 2001. However, the San Miguelito youths who are now starving will be around in the year 2001. [applause] Curundu youths and youths in the countryside and in Panama will be around, and they will remember that in 1987 they suffered the U.S. economic attack.

This message of dignity from the men and women of Panama is addressed to those youngsters and children. [applause; crowd shouts: "Standing or death, but never kneeling down!" "A single flag and a single territory!" "Omar Torrijos Herrera: Present!" "They are leaving, they are certainly leaving!"; applause]

The economic aggression against Panama is a method of pressure and subjugation. It is the U.S. violation of the UN Charter and human rights. It is the U.S. rejection of the resolutions issued by SELA, ECLA, and other regional political organizations opposing intervention.

The military threat and increase in the number of troops flagrantly violates the Torrijos-Carter Treaty. The 193d Brigade became the Southern Command without notifying Panama of that change. On 12 Febraury, two National Guard battalions of the U.S. Reserves in Florida and Puerto Rico arrived in Panama with the mission of conducting a psychological war and intimidating the peaceful Panamanian people. An area security unit arrived on 16 March, a military police battalion on 18 March, an Air Force cavalry battalion on 22 March, and two Marine infantry battalions on 23 March. What for, gentlemen? What for? [laughter, shouts]

Guantanamo is elsewhere; so is Nicaragua. Why Panama? Here in Panama, dignity and the Pacific and Atlantic air create mighty men who have the magic ability to transform themselves into shooting palm trees. [applause]

Panama's proposals were presented during talks—neither the FDP, or any man, nor any citizen, nor any minister is authorized to conduct negotiations without receiving constitutional authority from the Assembly and the Panamanian parliament [as heard]. Therefore, there could be no negotiations, because the parliament represented by you had not accepted any negotiation. There were talks for peace, for seeking points of rapprochement, for seeking Panama's well-being. There were no tricks or lies. The lies came from the United States; tricks never came from Panama or the FDP. We always said loudly, clearly, concisely, and directly: There can be no negotiations; there can be no negotiations because there must be talks regarding Panama's well-being, with respect for the dignity, sovereignty, and self-determination of Panamanians. We have always demanded an end of the economic aggression, the withdrawal of the surplus U.S. troops that are here in violation of the Torrijos-Carter Treaties, and respect for the constitutional decision of the Panamanian parliament, which designated Solis Palma as the president of the Republic. [applause]

Gentlemen, the FDP supports the perfecting and strengthening of democracy. However, what democracy means to Panama is not what democracy is for the United States. Democracy for the United States, as a Ku Klux Klan institution, would not work here, because there are many blacks here. [applause] That Ku Klux Klan-type of democracy is not for us, because we are all blacks here. [applause]

Therefore, our democracy is defined by our own characteristics and reality. We cannot have 10 generals; we cannot have 10 generals because our geographical space, the size of our forces is based on the needs and monetary savings of those men in relation to a common benefit, in relation to a civic action. [sentence as heard]

That is why we cannot go around inventing wars or participating in military adventures against other countries, because our objective and our fundamental security doctrine is the welfare of the people and the participation of our Armed Forces not in war exercises, but in exercises that benefit the people, peasants, Indians, and minorities, who cannot build roads. That is our doctrine of defense and security. It is a nonoffensive doctrine; it is a defensive position against hunger, misery, and illiteracy. That is our war and that is the war of Panama, and these are the soldiers who fight this war. We are not engaged in Irangate-type activities. [applause]

We are not soldiers of fortune or mercenaries. We wear our uniform with dignity, which we acquired in the different academies of Latin America and the world, where each one of these men has studied. These men were molded and prepared here in Panama's reality. We are also honored to have an army where the oligarchy is not and will never be present. [applause]

That is why we see investments being made to penetrate and to seek weak, traumatized people who cannot belong to these armed forces. Not everyone has the divine, manifest right or God's inspiration to work with blacks, Indians, peasants, and dirt in roads, valleys, and rivers. Not everyone can do that. Not everyone has that ability. [applause] Those who have that ability stay, and those who do not have it leave. [applause]

Since 1969, Torrijos used to say a phrase, which I would like to repeat here: I do not want a uniformed soldier whose hands smell like treason after receiving a tip.

What we are seeing today in Panama is a phenomenon. We were the ones who delivered the civic action package to the United States. We gave it to General Paul Gorman, with whom we worked; to General [unidentified person whispers the name Galvin] Galvin, with whom we worked and with whom we went to Colon, Portobelo, and to an area south of Sona. Those were the days when their troops came here for peaceful purposes to learn about Panama's phenomenon and to learn about Panama's war of dignity. You can ask Gorman and Galvin, who can testify to the respect with which we treated those soldiers and to the harmony with which we worked. Their soldiers never had a problem here. They learned from Panamanians, and the Panamanians learned about their technology. We are enemies of no one, and neither do we need Cuban or Libyan advisers. We have our own advisers here. [applause]

Believe it or not, the best advisers of the FDP are peasants. We are finishing up a ring road that begins in Arraijan, continues on to La Chorrera, then up to the mountains of Cocle Province, and ends in Colon Province. We did not need any engineer; we did not use any engineer to do that job.

These drawings were made by a young man, the son of a peasant, whose last name is Dominguez, who lives up there in the mountains. This young man took a horse, a piece of paper, and a pencil and began drafting the path of the road. He measured the distance according to the speed of the horse's legs. [applause]

Look, this seems like a joke, but it is not a joke. This young man, who is alive and is the son of Mr Dominguez—the one who spoke some 3 weeks ago—that young man is better than [former Public Works Minister Rogelio] Dumanoir and [current Public Works Minister Rene] Bultron. [laughter]

Gentlemen, this is our FDP, where the United States... [corrects himself] on which the United States has imposed an indictment [preceding word in English] so the FDP cannot purchase weapons from the United States. If we cannot purchase weapons in the United States, where are we going to get them from? Aside from that, we can use palm trees instead of weapons. [laughter]

The United States is searching for weapons. This is why there are planes flying around every night at the Costa Rican border, at Bocas del Toro, and at the Darien border. Those planes flying over these key points are violating our national territory. U.S. troops are conducting a landing, defense, and attack exercise at Galeta Island. Those planes have frightened Colon residents today. Is this not an aggression? Is this not a human rights violation? Is this not a provocation? This is an unfriendly, unworthy action by a powerful nation against the smallest nation in the world. We want to take this opportunity at the Assembly to condemn the military actions that began yesterday, which have not been reported to the Republic of Panama and which are reportedly to protect Galeta Island. Do they fear a coup at Galeta Island? Those are our islands. They are ours, and they are the eyes and ears of Latin America.

Gentlemen, I want to thank you for this opportunity. All questions have been written down, but I do not read that well. On behalf of my colleagues at the FDP, I want to thank you for this opportunity to address you with dignity. You should know that this commander and these officers have not betrayed the thoughts, the actions, or the constitutional laws of the Republic of Panama, and will never give up, be weak, be accomplices, or be bribed by any nation, no matter how powerful it may be, because there is something greater than a deal [preceding word in English]. There is something greater than the personal interest of a man, and that is the national interest. [applause]

Panama's crisis cannot and will not revolve around a government, a party, or a man, because this is a crisis provoked by the right to be honorable.

This is a crisis provoked by the struggle for and defense of a cause, by the struggle for and defense of the right to self-determination, by the defense of a geographical gift that God gave Panama, which is its small geographical size, the fact that it has coasts on two oceans, and the fact that it has the most important geopolitical position in the world. That is our oil. That is what we will defend. [applause]

Gentlemen, honorable legislators of this Assembly, the struggle reaches the defense of this very Assembly. The struggle reaches the defense of this microphone, because the plan also included the destruction of this parliament, of this Panamanian-style democratic system. You will also have to defend this trench, this space.

We and Panama recognize and respect the U.S. people and society for its value, origin, and integrity. That society freed itself from colonialism. We believe in and admire U.S. society, its people, the people from the streets, its farmers, and youth. However, that is a people who, because of their size and their important men, their large territory, and their large potential and wealth have leaders, secretaries, and an establishment [preceding word in English] that have made lying their watchword. Their doctrine is to accuse people. Those who yesterday were accused of being communists are now accused of being drug traffickers. An analysis of the situation, however, shows that there cannot be an offer without a demand. There is no production without a market. The pendulum moves between the Andean production and the market in the north, thus affecting all the other countries that are accidentally along the route between either end. Money is on the one extreme and the product is on the other. Consumption is on the one extreme and production is on the other. It is good to be aware of what this market is, because Panama does not have a drug-addicted youth or a drug-addicted society. Our message to the U.S. people is that they have been deceived by Elliott Abrams and the establishment [preceding word in English], which have turned them into enemies of a defenseless country and one that has traditionally been friendly to the United States.

The Panamanian people are not resentful of the U.S. people. We feel resentment against its liars. The U.S. misinformers here in Panama, U.S. Ambassador Davis and his second in command, Maisto, have contributed to the deterioration of relations between Panama and the United States.

This struggle, the basic goal of which is to defend our dignity and sovereignty, is not a struggle of only today but a struggle of generations to which each man has contributed with his sacrifices and blood since 1904, when the first canal treaties were denounced.

Today we see with great pride and reverence the fact that Panamanian women are leading that struggle onward toward the conquests, onward in defense of the principles, onward despite the denunciations. What country in the world has women such as ours? [applause] The FDP states in its manifesto, its testimony of deep conviction, that it wants a democracy, that it wants a republican nation, a Panamanian republic in which the one who can earn the love of the people and the Panamanians' votes will be president of the Republic on 7 May 1989. Those who aspire to the presidency through foreign hands will have to go and find it, because this is not the country. [applause]

We have said, out of deep respect for the institutions established by the Panamanian Constitution, that we have no interest in having the military commands become eternal entities of men or positions. We know that each man in each institution has a right to be, to exist, and, as the Bible says: to be born, to grow, and to end his period. This is the mental concept in the minds of each man here, including this commander. [applause] Our deep respect leads us to the conviction that we form the generational continuity with the men of the Constitution, with the men who make the laws, and with the presidents who show respect for the people and who do not obey certain families or certain sectors that oppress the Panamanian people. I pledge this as a Panamanian, as a citizen, as a soldier of Panama and Latin America. [applause]

It is the time of the peoples of the world. We want to reiterate that at this time of the peoples of the world, Panama grows and makes of its territory a single trench, the trench of dignity. It is the trench, and it is a mirror that reflects this: Whatever happens here will be the experiment that can then be applied against any other country, be it Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala, in South America, Argentina, the Patagonia. Therefore, Panama is the last Maginot Line of dignity, and the FDP are the soldiers of the people.

I want to conclude this phase, Mr President, by reiterating our deep appreciation for being given this opportunity and to state that in the talks held in search of peace, to overcome the crisis, we have talked with [former Venezuelan] President Carlos Andres Perez, President Vinicio Cerezo, and different Latin American figures. We even talked with Dr Allen Weinstein of the Center for Democracy in search for a peaceful and dignified solution. We know we have reason on our side, and when reason is on one's side, there is no power in the world that can destroy a cause, even if it kills a man, even if it invades a country. Consciences and minds are eternal, because they were granted by the divine power, and only God who has given us life has the right to take it. [applause]

Responds to Assembly

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[Question-and-answer session with General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces, and Legislative Assembly members at the Assembly in Panama City—live]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Legislator Luis Gomez] [Passage omitted] Mr Assembly President, allow me to pose a number of questions to General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander of the Panama Defense Forces. In his statement, Gen Noriega said that there is a market and a production center. In his explanation, he said that for production to exist, there must be a consumer market. He was referring to the drug trafficking problem. Approximately 2 months ago, the U.S. Armed Forces' Channel 8 here in Panama reported that the U.S. Government used drug traffickers to get around a U.S. congressional ban on funds for the Nicaraguan contras. The U.S. Senate had been investigating this incident. The group led by General (?Secord), chief of the team supporting the contras, and Colonel North, who planned U.S. missions in Europe, created a situation that caused a national problem in our country. When those gentlemen found themselves cornered by the U.S. Senate, they had to draw attention away from the U.S. Senate investigation. There is very reliable information from the U.S., top secret information, stating that they planned Hugo Spadafora's murder. [passage omitted]

That same television station named Panama as a stopover for the weapons going from Europe to Central America and for the drugs from South America to the United States. To draw attention away from the serious mistake of these two officers, a Panamanian was murdered. General, this is a difficult question. Using this premise, however, there has been an attempt to accuse Panama with that well-known phrase: human rights violations. Here is the first question. What truth is there to the reports about the smuggling of weapons and drugs that created the Irangate scandal and that these two U.S. officers used to by-pass the U.S. Senate and U.S. laws? What truth is there to that? Do you know anything about that situation? Are you aware of anything about that?

[Assembly President Alberto Aleman Boyd] Gen Manuel Antonio Noriega will reply.

[Noriega] What is the other question, please?

[Gomez] Do I ask the other question right away?

[Noriega] If it is related to the...

[Gomez, interrupting] No, it is not related.

[Noriega] With respect to all the Assembly members, it is important to note that many things we mentioned in our statement... [changes thought] Regarding the question by Legislator Luis Gomez, we want to say that geographically speaking, the Republic of Panama has one airport and one area that are not under the control of immigration, police, or military branches of the FDP or the Panamanian Government. As proof of that, many of the people who fled during this crisis are either hiding in those areas or have left from that airport. The security procedures used for these sort of activities are so jealously and tightly guarded that, logically, they would have to use territories they can control, not the open areas such as the airports under the Republic of Panama's control. [applause]

[Gomez] Thank you very much. I think that clarifies things a little. As you said, an indictment should be filed against North and his helpers. General, at no point in your statement did I hear you—or perhaps you said it and I did not understand clearly—speak of the popular

movement. On several occasions, in speeches and in certain areas—for example, in your visit to San Miguelito—you said the popular movement would have the last word as to whether or not an agreement would be reached in these talks. At no time, however, have we known of any participation by the popular movement in any talks of this kind. Moreover, you said that you participated in the first of the meetings between Romulo [Democratic Revolutionary Party President Romulo Escobar Bethancourt] and Kozak. If the popular movement has the last word in these talks, why was it not allowed to participate in them and informed of what was being discussed with the United States? [applause]

[Noriega] Yes, as a parliamentarian, you are well-versed in these matters. I wish to repeat that when we agreed to talk with various Latin American leaders, with different schools of thought, with different leaders or presidents, we did so to analyze the situation and to seek solutions, means, or paths to resolve problems by peaceful methods in a generalized war. If there was a method, it was that we had to seek out all the people who come to talk to us, each of them with his own method and his own solution. I believe it would be humanly impossible for the popular movements to participate actively in these problems. The method therefore has always been to listen and to see what capacity for reasoning or a solution exists. Then we try to perfect it during the talks by trial and error.

[Gomez] Well, General, this means that at the end of these talks, the final solution will be discussed with the popular movement?

[Noriega] Yes, the Panamanian crisis cannot be resolved in a single area with only a few men or a single organization. It has to involve the active participation of the existing active forces. Since the popular forces will end a period of dialogue tomorrow in which they have reached very positive positions and created proposals to be presented to the national government, I feel that if they can propose solutions, those proposals should be given to the permanent commission that will continue working after the dialogue ends.

[Gomez] [Passage omitted] On Friday, 15 April, LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA, the dean of the Panamanian newspapers, published an article by Patrick Buchanan entitled: "The Panama Issue, a Delicate Matter for the United States." One part of the article states that the United States must be on the side of democracy in Latin America, but the strengthening of democracy in Panama is not the task of the U.S. Armed Forces. That must be decided by the Panamanian people.

Meanwhile, a news report cites Mr Bush, excuse me, Secretary of State Shultz, as saying: Noriega places a heavy burden on the Panamanian people. [passage omitted]

General, I ask you, in response to this, whether we are responsible for what Mr Shultz says. I ask you whether Mr Shultz' words reflect his personal whims, or whether Mr Shultz' words are a part of the U.S. low-intensity strategy, of Reagan's plan when he was a candidate, or of what Buchanan says in this article published on Friday, 15 April 1988.

[Noriega] [Passage omitted] When the treaties were signed, when the treaty violations were planned, and when the appointments of Panamanian employees were not carried out as they should have been, neither the FDP nor Gen Noriega were present. When the economic system of constant and continuous violation of the Torrijos-Carter Treaties was devised, when the jobs and labor laws were manipulated by the Canal Commission, and when there was an open contravention of the Panamanians' rights at certain sites in the Canal Zone, neither the FDP nor Gen Noriega were present. The U.S. aggression and the statements by that U.S. official are completely typical of an aggressor country. It is naive and even disrespectful—an act of disrespect toward the Panamanian people—to appear today in sheep's clothing to claim that Panama is attacking the United States.

[Gomez] General, in your statement you pointed out the evil role that has been played by the U.S. Embassy in Panama, specifically by Ambassador Davis and John Maisto. The same article in LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA of 15 April states the following, in part: If the drug czars of New York and Washington can poison U.S. children and kill policemen without any threat of death from the U.S. police or judgment by Americans, why should U.S. Marines risk their lives in the jungles in Panama?

In other words, this Patrick Buchanan was saying that it was not necessary to send U.S. soldiers to risk their lives in Panama. He made that point. My question is: Is there any relationship between this statement made by Patrick Buchanan and the fact that the U.S. Embassy is being used for aggression against Panama? Is there any relationship between what Mr Buchanan says and the fact that CIA agents in Panama, through certain state agencies, were developing a strategy against the Panamanian people? And I ask further: Is this related to the military uprising on 16 March, which was a White House strategy in the low-intensity war? [passage omitted]

[Noriega] There is a strange phenomenon here in Panama. As a Panamanian, it is important that I outline it here. The degree of contradiction and the wish to divide and destabilize the country led Ambassador Davis and his group to divide the CIA, itself. They created their parallel mechanisms of investigation and their group of men. In other words, they did not even trust the CIA, nor the 470th Military Intelligence Brigade, nor any of their intelligence mechanisms. They created parallel civilian and military intelligence groups, which did not know each other, but spied on one another. [laughter] That big phenomenon made us unaware of many things, because the ambassador himself had his own CIA.

[Gomez] General, I am not completely pleased with your answer. Let me tell you this: We know that on several occasions, U.S. Embassy officials met with members of the Civic Crusade and the Panamanian opposition. Approximately 3 days ago, we learned that the U.S. Embassy, specifically Ambassador Davis, gave information concerning the status of the talks with Panama to several members of the Crusade and the opposition. I ask you what is the link here, because many times in this very plenum, opposition legislators, who hated and hate many of the military men who tried to carry out a coup on 16 March, have now tried to pass resolutions concerning the human rights of those military men. General, we wonder whether the CIA or Ambassador Davis were linked to that coup, because those who hated those military men now want to defend the arrested military men. Am I explaining myself?

[Noriega] Right. The degree of contact and penetration, as I said before—I said there is a degree of penetration—exists. The penetration includes a study of man's psychological conditions and his vulnerability. In the world of espionage and counterespionage, they reach each man, whether he is civilian or military, through each man's vulnerability. [passage omitted]

[Gomez] General, you referred to the U.S. elections about five times, but you were very careful not to talk about Bush and the Republican Party. Is there any connection between the U.S. electoral system and the Panamanian conflict? This is the first question. The second is as follows: Why is the United States, as you said, developing its political campaign around Panama and not around the problem of the blacks, the needy, and drug addicts in the United States? You were very careful not to talk about Bush. Why, General?

[Noriega] There is a simple reason: We have so many problems here in Panama that we cannot be concerned with Bush. [applause] We are not interested in either Dukakis or Bush or anyone except Panama and the problem Jimenez [not further identified] may have with the Indians in the mountains of Chiriqui. We are interested in the problems that Legislator Argenida de Barrios may have in Colon with the underprivileged. These are our problems, and we demand... [changes thought] If we start talking about Bush, we will be running his campaign for him. We can even form a committee and charge him for it. [applause]

[Gomez] Thank you very much, General. Here is my last question: Yesterday, the media—it seems that information or disinformation about our country is more quickly learned abroad than here—reported that in his telegram, Shultz said the negotiations—which you now call talks—were broken. Yesterday, the Panamanian National Information System said it was true that the talks were broken. What are Panamanians going to do now that 40 percent of the private sector has gone bankrupt, now that unemployment will increase 20 percent? What are we going to do with our people's hunger and desperation? What are we going to do with the homeless? What is our next strategy, if the talks failed, General? [crowd shouts: "To resist!"]

[Aleman Boyd] Gen Noriega, you may answer.

[Noriega] Mr President, Honorable Gomez, I join the voices of those who just answered your question. [applause] Now that you have finished, we will answer all your questions in a philosophical way. Panama and Panamanians and their representatives—in other words, you, the true expression of Panamanian democracy—cannot make their struggle and sovereignty contingent upon the U.S. presidential candidate. [applause]

[Aleman Boyd] Honorable Antonio Ardiles has the floor.

[Ardiles] [Passage omitted] My question is: Do you know of any other Latin American country or country outside this continent that is willing to accept the U.S. bases should they no longer be in Panama?

[Noriega] To answer the Honorable Ardiles: To the best of our knowledge, these are the only military bases in the entire world that do not pay a penny to the Panamanian people [as heard], and that is an act of aggression; they do not give anything, but, on the contrary, they detract, because those military bases provide for tax exemptions, commissaries, etc., etc., etc., etc., which are all acts of economic aggression against Panama. I do not know if there is a Latin American country that wants to accept those bases, even if they would receive payment. However, as a Latin American, I would not recommend they accept them in their territory. [applause]

[Ardiles] [Passage omitted] You say that Galeta Point Base [as heard] is the eyes and the ears of the world. I am worried and want to know if that Galeta base, which is in my province [Colon], was of any use in defeating Argentina in the Malvinas war.

[Aleman Boyd] The general may appoint anyone he wishes for answering this question.

[Noriega] Colonel Wong.

[Aleman Boyd] Col Wong, you have the floor.

[Wong] May I answer the Honorable Ardiles? I must say that yes, Galeta Island had an active participation in the Malvinas war. Galeta Island is a base for blocking [interdiccion] communications and for controlling the communications of Latin American countries. [applause] [passage omitted]

[Ardiles] You are already seen as Panama's representative. However, in some circles they are talking about your retirement from the [FDP] command. Therefore, I want to ask you and also the General Staff... [applause, shouts] General, would you say that your retirement

from the command should depend on a decision by all Panamanians, by you, or by the General Staff? That is my question. [crowd shouts: "The people, the people, not one step backward!"]

[Noriega] The reply and philosophical conclusion to the question asked by Legislator Ardiles is that no commander abandons his ship during times of storm. [shouts, applause] [passage omitted]

[Legislator Brin] I would like to ask the commander a few things. First, have the national government's security forces and Commander Noriega given any thought to the possibility that the same mafia that handles the international drug trafficking business has contributed to this campaign against him? [passage omitted]

[Noriega] Honorable Legislator Brin, the work carried out by Panama since 1972—because despite the misinformation and charges against Panama, the Panamanian antidrug department continues working, because we do not feel that this struggle should be affected by coercive actions, orders, or demands of a country, nation, or establishment [preceding word in English]. [sentence as heard] Panama continues its struggle against drugs because of its conviction, because its antidrug forces are convinced that this is an evil that must be eliminated because it sweeps and drags youths to their extermination. Although some countries do not have a consumer market, we are susceptible to the organization of the consumer market to maintain the existence of that market in proportion to the production areas. [sentence as heard] [passage omitted]

When nobody helped the United States, it found in Panama the only place that supported it in the struggle against drug trafficking. Here in Panama, several international organizations were created at Panama's initiative. International conferences against drug trafficking were held. The first conference held here in Panama was on Contadora. The big Interpol conferences were held in the Panama Hotel, and 1 and 1/2 years ago you saw that Interpol returned to the Atlapa Convention Center in Panama, where the president of Interpol gave me a medal of distinction. [passage omitted]

[Aleman Boyd] [Passage omitted] Honorable Argenida de Barrios has the floor.

[Barrios] Thank you, Mr President, honorable colleague legislators, members of the General Staff, ministers, Gen Manuel Antonio Noriega. My question is if the U.S. military bases on our territory in the canal area are maintained beyond the year 2000, what would be the result if there is a war, a military confrontation? What problems would Panamanians face with regard to their national security?

[Noriega] There is a principle by which generations denounced, fought, and sacrificed. This was done so that the ignominious canal treaty with the United States would be abolished. Torrijos directed the generational struggle until the treaty was signed with U.S. President Carter. That treaty of humiliation, of pressure which no Panamanian signed, but which all Panamanians feel is like a heavy steel sheet over the shoulders, the heads, the consciences, and the minds of each one of us, must conclude at noon on 31 December 1999. With this also concludes the military presence of any foreign troops in our territory. [applause]

[Barrios] [Passage omitted] What is wrong—it is a matter of negative conditioning; I do not know if someone has read about this in military psychology—with the Panamanian military, with the FDP that bothers Mr Bush so much?

[Noriega] The principle mentioned by Honorable Legislator Barrios is, as I mentioned before, the generational struggle. [passage omitted]

In the same way, at international forums and during their liberation actions, Panamanian student leaders and Panamanian political leaders were also the obvious target of these aggressions because they wanted an end to the aggression and to the violations of Panama's sovereignty. The Armed Forces, the FDP, who are the product of the various public schools, who endured the U.S. presence and the overpowering U.S. force during the various student demonstrations when there was a wall at the 4th of July Avenue, and when the U.S. flag and the U.S. courts still existed [in Panama]. [sentence as heard] [passage omitted]

Therefore, we are now facing the historical evolution of a military generation who endured aggression by a foreign force. Among our ranks, Major Castrejon on 9 January 1964 suffered deep wounds caused by the foreign... [corrects himself] the U.S. machineguns when the [U.S.] soldiers fired at the National Institute from the former Canal Zone post office. Therefore, this is the difference, that [those of us] who have been participating [in the struggle come] from the same mold and the same generation, and we all know about colonialism.

[Barrios] Thank you very much. [applause] [passage omitted]

[Legislator Rodriguez] However, we have been noticing that the drug problem seems to have dropped from the limelight and has been replaced by the bogeyman of communism. We are told about Cuban advisers; we are told about Cuban troops walking around Central Avenue. I do not know whether it is because the Americans who visit Panama cannot tell the difference between Balboa Avenue—where the U.S. Embassy is located and where there is a group of Cubans requesting visas—and Central Avenue. In addition, there is talk about the communist leanings of the FDP. Specifically, Commander, how many members of your General Staff, how many of your immediate officers have studied in socialist countries, have taken any type of courses in socialist countries; if they have not, do you have any idea where our FDP officers have been trained?

[Noriega] The officers of the General Staff, and, in fact, all of the FDP officers come from two places: Since the time of the former National Guard, in keeping with our policy of giving the troops the opportunity to be promoted, some FDP officers have come up through the ranks. These men can be said to belong to the Panamanian people's military academy. The others include all of us who have studied in military schools from the United States to Argentina, including Nicaragua at the time of the Nicaraguan Military Academy. No one has had the opportunity to study in Cuba.

In military technology, the chance to become familiar with that methodology is a chance to attain wisdom. We believe that the evolution of the FDP and restructuring of geopolitics and war games among the superpowers will force small countries to seek technological and training assistance in those countries that represent the opposite poles of power. For instance, the U.S. President and the president of Soviet Russia [as heard] are discussing war problems at this very moment. Soviet military men are in Nevada investigating the results of nuclear tests. Then why is a small country that needs to develop forbidden from seeking technology, or ways to do things, or learning about this science of war with any of the poles of power. [applause]

Many of us have visited Cuba, have visited Nicaragua. This is our prerogative as nonaligned countries and as people without complexes. [applause].

[Rodriguez] Thank you very much, Commander.

[Legislator Jose Young] [Passage omitted] The Torrijos-Carter Treaties establish that after the year 2000, Panama and the United States will negotiate Panama's acceptance of these bases' continuing here or not. I wonder: What is the strategic value of these bases beyond the year 2000, because everyone here says that the Panama Canal will not have any strategic value after that time? I would like you to explain if this psychological war is meant to weaken the Government of Panama, its institutions, to gain an advantage in any future negotiations that are conducted on these premises. The situation of those bases is not decided by you, but by the Panamanian parliament and people. [passage omitted]

[Noriega] [Passage omitted] In this case, and in all cases, psychological warfare seeks to subdue, diminish, submit, undermine, impose, defeat, destroy, and frighten the nationalist, patriotic stand of a people and the man, the men, and the women who confront this struggle. Therefore, that psychological war is for the purpose of frightening, weakening, dismantling, and setting aside those who at a given moment decide that the struggle must be waged at any cost, in any place; because it is a struggle of the fatherland. Therefore, I repeat, all attacks that are made against the leaders of the Americas in the various countries from the times of Bolivar—Juan Domingo Peron in Argentina, Velasco Alvarado in Peru, Torrijos, [applause] all of them—all of this action entailed a purpose: to dismantle [as heard] the men, to frighten them so they would not continue struggling. [passage omitted]

[Major Daniel Delgado] Thank you, Mr President, honorable legislators, commander in chief, members of the General Staff. Regarding your question, Mr Legislator, on the obligation to negotiate a military base after the year 2000, I must inform you that Article 5 of the treaty on the canal's permanent neutrality and operation establishes that after the expiration of the Panama Canal Treaty, only the Republic of Panama will manage the canal and will maintain military forces, defense sites, and military installations on national territory. However, the instrument of ratification of the Republic of Panama on the treaty on the canal's permanent neutrality establishes that nothing in this treaty will prevent the Republic of Panama or the United States, according to their respective constitutional procedures, from reaching any agreement or accord for military bases after the year 2000. In other words, there is no obligation that Panama must negotiate military bases or that U.S. military bases must remain after the year 2000. I do not know who will be the Panamanian who will approve or ratify the permanence of military bases after the year 2000. Thank you, honorable representatives. [applause]

[Young] General, I think that at the beginning or end of every century, a Bolivar is born. I think that in this century, the Republic of Panama has had the opportunity to have a Bolivar and now will give us the opportunity to have two Bolivars in less than one generation. Commander Noriega, if you persist in this struggle, you will become the other Bolivar of this century. [applause]

[Legislator Rigoberto Paredes] [Passage omitted] Commander Noriega, will you be willing to hold additional talks if they request them?

[Noriega] The principle of all Panamanians is a total capability of nonintransigence. Intransigence does not enter the mind of the Panamanian. Consequently, we—and when I say we, I want to include you and the Panamanian people—we are all willing to talk to all of those who respect us, all of those who do not come to us with ultimatums. [applause] [passage omitted]

I repeat, honorable legislator, that our principle... [changes thought] because the secret of Panamanians is precisely that we have no inhibitions in discussing our country's problems with any nation or man. That is our great capability. We do not allow others to subject us or to impress us with foreign soldiers or senators.

[Paredes] Yesterday, two U.S. television networks interviewed me and they were both concerned because, according to them—and it seems that the United States, especially in the establishment [preceding word in English], has the opinion—your patriotic, firm position

in favor of the Panamanian cause of not accepting the ultimatum was a form of humiliating President Reagan. Did you want to humiliate President Reagan?

[Noriega] Because of our principles, education, and origin, we are very respectful of men, and since we are respectful, we demand respect. We cannot even think of humiliating anyone, because this would be going against our principles and the normal procedures of Christianity and nationalism of the Panamanian family.

[Paredes] Commander Noriega, in your speech you did not even mention Reagan, because of what you have just said and because we are not concerned about him. I will add to your speech the following, which you omitted because of decency and which was mentioned by a U.S. journalist and a writer. I will read the beginning of his article, which says: In the ruins of his destroyed and discredited administration, the United States has finally learned what happens when a president bases his power on lies and fantasies. This is the product of a U.S. writer.

My last question is a strong question, Commander Noriega. It is strong, but I know you can answer it, because you are strong. Even though you are not an economist, you talked about the issue of economic aggression, which I have described as economic terrorism. When you said the aggression was a violation of the UN Charter, I add that it is a flagrant and brutal aggression against the principles of human rights of an entire people. That aggression makes Reagan a candidate for genocide, because he is trying to wipe out an entire nation. This is a preamble for my question.

Today I read with great concern that the commerce and industries minister has estimated the economic damage to the country to be $1.5 billion. The president recently appointed a war cabinet. There are three warriors in that cabinet: Rognoni, Goodin, and Gonzalez, who are sitting in front of me. They work in the economic field. Commander, I can prove to the war cabinet that the economic damage is not $1.5 billion, but at least $5 billion if we add things they probably did not add, such as the damage caused by unemployment, the drop in production and exports, and the loss of education because of the months schools and universities were closed. In mid-1987, the economy was showing a growth rate of over 4 percent, but today it is a negative percentage.

If we estimate there will be a minus 20-percent economic growth compared to that registered in the middle of 1987, we will face a 25-percent drop in our economic growth. The question is as follows: Do you know why our government and its war cabinet, if it really is a war cabinet, has not filed a suit before the international courts against the United States for at least $5 billion? [applause] [passage omitted]

[Noriega] Concerning your question, Honorable Paredes, we believe your economic analysis is realistic and complements the figures provided by Commerce and Industries Minister Rognoni. I would like to invite Foreign Minister Jorge Ritter to answer your second question. He can give us information concerning our capacity and possibility of presenting such a suit before an international organization. [applause] [passage omitted]

[Paredes] I will limit myself, Mr President, to asking the commander whether or not he would agree in principle to filing a suit against the empire.

[Aleman Boyd] Gen Noriega, you may answer.

[Noriega] I believe a suit should have been filed a long time ago, because this parliament approved it. [applause]

[Paredes] Mr President, to conclude, I just want to tell all foreign media, those who are there and those who are here, the local media, and the entire world: Report this event that has been carried out here today as it has occured, as you are seeing it, and as the pictures taken here will show. Tell the world that in a parliament composed of 64 members, 39 are here, which is more than half. Tell the world that Commander Noriega, whom they call a dictator, has come here and has subjected himself to the hierarchy of the legislative branch of this country, which shows that in Panama [applause] there is a constitutional democracy that is as good—in fact, I would say that is superior—to the one in the United States. Thank you. [applause]

[Aleman Boyd] Honorable Cesar Pardo has the floor.

[Pardo] Thank you very much, Mr President. FDP Commander in Chief Gen Manuel Antonio Noriega, honorable members of the staff and other officers accompanying Gen Noriega, honorable legislators, media representatives, companeros. First, I want to thank Gen Noriega for being here at this Assembly plenum, because I was one of those who proposed summoning him. I want to take this opportunity to recognize in Gen Noriega the typical example of Panamanian men: the man who has endured the attacks from the northern superpower against him, seeking to humiliate us. [passage omitted]

General, I am asking you how is it possible, how does the following fit the gringos' idea of democracy: The United States has proposed to you—not during the negotiations, but rather during the talks that were held—that the United States as a government, or President Reagan, or the State Department, or D'Amato, or Helms would recognize two presidents here in Panama when we Panamanians only recognize one, who is Solis Palma. [applause]

[Aleman Boyd] Gen Noriega will respond to that question.

[Noriega] This stance, or this position, is very typical of the juggling used by the establishment [preceding word in English] against Latin America. This is very typical of

the policy, the aggression system, and the pattern of intervention planned by the Elliott Abrams' group against Panama: playing in two waters.

[Legislator Martin Serrano] [Passage omitted] If what those U.S. envoys want is democracy, here we have Panamanian-style democracy. If what they want is a country at peace, here we have a country at peace. Now then, we think they want something other than that. My specific question is: Have these U.S. envoys proposed at any time to the government, or have they meant to say, that they want their military bases to stay in Panama past the year 2000? I am asking you this, Commander, because today's generation knows that there is a Spain where there are U.S. military bases, and there is a Cuba that also has a U.S. military base on its territory. We Panamanians have questions now, at a time when the hegemonistic forces are divided in two, and Panama is under the hegemony of the most powerful country. General Torrijos said we continued to be under the Pentagon's umbrella. My question, Gen Noriega, is: Have these talkers—because they are not negotiators, but talkers—at any time made any offer for compensating us for having all of those military bases in the Canal Zone? They are worried that we are going to get them out in the year 2000. What I want to know is if they have made a dignified offer worthy of the Panamanian people during those talks—not negotiations—with the FDP. You, Gen Noriega, have become the champion of not only the sacred interests of the fatherland, but also the champion of national dignity. [passage omitted]

[Noriega] Colonel Justines just told me that the answer is that if they had begun like that, the discussion would have been so disrespectful that we would not have even sat down. [applause; crowd shouts: "They are getting out; they certainly are getting out!"] [passage omitted]

[Legislator Rodriguez] [Passage omitted] Do you believe that the U.S. Senate is truly aware of the repeated violations of the Torrijos-Carter Treaties? You have been saying for some time, since September 1985, that the treaties and the year 2000 are at the heart of the problem.

[Noriega] Honorable legislators, we honestly believe that the U.S. senators are victims of their own disinformation. Their working staffs are penetrated by the so-called lobbies [preceding word in English], which is a system unknown to Panamanians but permitted by U.S. democracy. The person with the best lobby has the best chance of influencing Senate decisions. [passage omitted]

One of the officials who is now in the United States took advantage of the financial investment that the Panamanian Government made to make contact with U.S. personages, whether senators or other prominent U.S. figures. Therefore, that person to whom I refer has utilized the contacts that he had made during the signing of the Torrijos-Carter Treaties to disinform the U.S. Senate. Therefore, I believe that the senators are unaware of the facts regarding the violations of the treaties signed by President Carter himself. Indeed, President Carter himself is not fully aware of the violations that have been committed against that treaty he signed for the United States, which have occurred ever since the signing. [passage omitted]

[Legislator Altamirano] [Passage omitted] I am concerned that the Americans, in their desperation because of the coming elections, could apply, or call for a total economic blockade against the Republic of Panama, which perhaps would be strongly opposed by the U.S. people, because they are very careful not to harm peoples, although we have seen that, in Panama's case, they seem to have made an exception... [changes thought] No, they haven't made an exception, but have rather continued to squeeze us, while in socialist countries, such as—I do not remember the name right now—in socialist countries, they have retreated, on the grounds that they cannot pressure people. Therefore, I am concerned that, if they do not utilize that economic blockade—and this is my question—in view of their desperation, I ask you, Commander, if they would dare to finance a mercenary guerrilla force in the Panamanian jungles and if we are prepared to face up to this, because I think that is what worries us most today.

[Noriega] The courses of action or the paths of aggression are so many that the guerrillas constitute one path. Regarding guerrillas in Panama, we also believe that just as we have opened the door for dialogue or talks with any country, or even with the United States, we think that there are wise, thinking, and analytical people [in the United States]. Guerrilla warfare is not only for guerrillas. Guerrilla warfare is a low-intensity war in which a person is going to shoot to kill or get shot to death, too. Therefore, guerrillas must know that they have that option, especially when guerrilla warfare lacks the liberation of the people as its basis. [crowd shouts: "Bravo!"]

When guerrilla warfare does not include the very essence of a just cause that is created by the men who seek their liberation and struggle for that just cause, guerrillas run the risk of becoming mercenaries. They run the risk that one may say, as Oliver North said: I found contras who lack the ability to fight. So, in order to wage guerrilla warfare, we must have a basis, the support of the people, a cause, a belief in the problem, and the courage to be a guerrilla. [applause]

[Aleman Boyd] Honorable Damaso Lombardo may speak.

[Lombardo] Good afternoon, Mr President. Good afternoon, Mr President, [repeats himself] Gen Manuel Antonio Noriega and his General Staff, ministries, and legislators. The fifth question on the questionnaire is: The United States has repeatedly and frequently violated the Torrijos-Carter Treaties. In fact, it has been 11 years since the signing of the treaties. We still have 11 more years to go before the Panama Canal is handed over to

the Panamanians. Also, according to the treaties, U.S. military bases must be reduced and there must be growing participation of Panamanian personnel in the Panama Canal.

In this regard, and since the Panamanian people must know what the violations really are, my question is as follows: After the treaties were approved and signed, have new military installations been created? How many are there and where are they? What sort of new weapons have been installed? I think the Panamanian people are worried because we are under a permanent threat of war from countries with a very large number of weapons. We fear that our country constitutes a target. For that reason, I would like you to answer this question. It has been 11 years since the signing, and we still have 11 years to go. Many things have been said. I think the Panamanian people are still not clear on this matter.

[Aleman Boyd] Gen Noriega will answer.

[Wong] Honorable legislator, the truth is that the U.S. Army has not built new military bases. In fact, the Torrijos-Carter Treaties stipulate those places where the so-called military bases are to be located—the real name is defense sites. Therefore, no new U.S. military bases have been installed in the Republic of Panama. However, it is good to keep in mind that, among the many violations committed by the United States and against which the Combined Board and the Joint Commission have been protesting throughout the years, it must be emphasized that all of the violations have been set down in writing; there are copies of these documents at the Foreign Ministry, because the United States has been informed of said violations. Colonel Ow Young.

[Ow Young] Honorable legislator, I will complement Col Wong's answer by reading a report on the increase in military forces that took place a few days ago, both in personnel and in sophisticated war materiel. [passage omitted] As you can see, they not only increased the number of troops, but they also increased the amount of combat equipment.

[Noriega] In addition, even if they have not built a military base under the specifications of what could be considered a military base, they have, in fact, turned the town of Veracruz into a military base.

[Legislator Rivera] Good evening, Mr President, General, guests, listeners. General, my question is related in part to the last question posed by my colleague, Lombardo. This surplus of troops that has been arriving and still remains on our territory in open violation of the Torrijos-Carter Treaties has been included among the talks with Reagan's envoys, Mr Kozak, in this case. I believe you mentioned this as one of the six main points. The question is: what has been the answer given by those gentlemen to our government's request that the surplus troops withdraw? When will the troops leave our country? We have talked about what is to happen between now and the year 2000, but I would like to know—for the reason you just mentioned, that Veracruz has been turned into a military base—an answer as to what they have said regarding the surplus troops. Are they going to keep them here, are they going to withdraw them within a few months' time, or what?

[Noriega] The letters of protest are in the Foreign Ministry files. When Foreign Minister Ritter was at the United Nations, he also used those figures to protest the surplus troops that arrived here unannounced and in a display of arrogance, and that remain here with the same arrogance, without anybody having invited them. And today, as I said, they are holding maneuvers at Galeta Island without so much as a notice to the Panamanian Government. As we can see, this is an arrogant attitude of the stronger against the weaker. [passage omitted]

[Rivera] General, the people who support you have been awaiting an answer for some months now: What is the truth behind that 12 August date that has been bandied about so much, about the fact that this might be the date of your withrawal from the Defense Forces, which is something we obviously do not want. Please answer this question, General.

[Aleman Boyd] Gen Noriega, you are not obliged to answer this question because it was not included in the questionnaire. However, you are free to say whatever you decide.

[Noriega] 12 August is the anniversary of the 2000 Battalion.

[Aleman Boyd] Thank you, General, thank you members of the General Staff, we appreciate your coming to the Legislative Assembly today. Good night.

Solis Palma Comments on Talks With U.S.

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[Speech by Manuel Solis Palma, minister in charge of the Presidency, at a meeting of the Women's Single Front Against Aggression (Frente Unico de Mujeres Contra la Agresion—FUMCA) at the Atlapa Convention Center in Panama City—live]

[Text] Messrs ministers of state; honorable legislators; Messrs directors of decentralized organizations; Professor Jilma Noriega de Jurado, mayor of the capital district; Balbina de Perinan, mayor of the San Miguelito Special District; Messrs members of the Panama Defense Force General Staff; Distinguished visiting international delegates; Madame delegates; Messrs representatives of the National Executive Committees of the Democratic Revolutionary, Labor, Liberal, and Revolutionary Panamenist Parties; ladies and gentlemen:

When a group of we Panamanians were obliged to assume responsibility for guiding the destiny of the Panamanian fatherland beginning on 26 February of

the present year, exactly 3 months ago, we were aware of the enormous difficulties that we would have to face. We were clearly aware of the intentions of the government of the northern country. We knew what they [the Americans] were capable of and that they were using all the strength of the United States to strangle the Republic of Panama.

We also knew that they had the support of a group who are Panamanians only because they were born in this country, but who had acted and continue to act like enemies of the Panamanian fatherland. They will continue to have identification cards, they will continue to be called Panamanians, but in the hearts of the true Panamanian people, of the authentic Panamanians, they are not Panamanians.

However, we also realized that we could count on the love that the great sectors of Panama feel for their country. We knew that we would have, sooner rather than later, the moral and material assistance of the brother countries of Latin America and other parts of the world.

However, I must confess that at no time could we have measured the magnitude of the Panamanians' deep love for their fatherland, of the nationalist feeling of all Panamanians, except the aforementioned. We could not have foreseen that as a consequence of this aggression, the consciences of many, or of the majority of the Panamanian people, would be awakened.

Material harm has been done to us. Some estimate the effects of this aggression so far at 1.5 billion balboas, so far . Others feel that it is approaching 2 billion balboas. But despite this material aspect, something has occurred that must be registered in the annals of the history of Panama, Latin America, and the world in general. It concerns the Panamanian people's capacity for resistance, the high-level conscience of the Panamanian people. The experts in international policy felt that the government which took over on 26 February would not last more than 15 days. The traitors came to their offices to say farewell and to tell their employees to be calm, because they would be returning within 15 days.

Yet today, we are beginning the 4th month, with our jugular cut, as a man said. [applause] If they cut our jugular, they will have to record in the annals of medicine that a body has lived for over 4 months with a severed jugular. [applause] And we will continue to live.

Today, with dignity, with the unyielding determination to guide the homeland's destiny along the paths of permanent liberation and to continue being a nation, and, as was said earlier, not as a colony, not as an associate state, and never as a protectorate, [applause] we are, in many ways, better off than prior to the aggression. We are better off than the day the aggression started, aggression that has not ended. The Panamanian people have united. This unity had been lost and was weakening our nationalistic struggle, the government's struggle for the demands of the Panamanian people. We had lost our unity. The state, the Panamanian Government, was divided in its ideas and guidelines. We had been infiltrated, we had dissidents within the government, we had a Trojan horse within the government. This hindered our unity. There was discontent, and this feeling led many people to join the demonstrators on the streets. Later, those same people stopped supporting the opposition when they realized that the men who were carrying the banner to overthrow the government were only doing this to assume power and place Panama in the hands of the United States.

A very special phenomenon was occurring. Those pointed out by the annointed ones, by the honest ones, by the responsible and capable ones, as they like to call themselves, were cleansed of their sins after they crossed the border, after they crossed the River Jordan and joined the ranks of the traitors. The cleaning up process within the government had started. This cleaning up process was also carried out by the political parties that support the Panamanian Government and the revolutionary process. We have lost nothing. We have gained much. Light shines more clearly after the house has been cleaned.

Today we see things more clearly, we can clearly see the future as well as the course the Panamanian Government must follow. The Panamanian Government must be, and will always be, at the side of the Panamanian people. [applause]

During the early days of the aggression even the Latin American peoples were confused. They did not understand what was going on in Panama. They thought that it was just another military coup d'etat. At that time they did not understand that we were trying to defend the basis, the foundation, of our nation. We either took the step and stopped them from selling the nation, or surrendered to the negative and antipatriotic actions of some high-ranking government officials.

We took a legal step in accord with our Constitution. We were determined to struggle for the respect of the treaties, for the Torrijist idea of consulting with the Panamanian people, of giving this people the answer they deserve, an answer that had been denied them.

That is why we had to go out and explain to sister countries the truth about Panama. The truth about Panama had been distorted by the U.S. media. It had been distorted by the media of those countries that in some cases respond to the dictates of the U.S. communications media.

We must confess that we found great obstacles due to a diplomatic corps that to a great extent was unable to respond to the historic moment. We have the responsibility of changing it so that when in the future there is a change or a situation like this, the diplomatic corps will know how to respond. [applause]

There were ambassadors and consuls who yielded. Not all were like Prescott [vice consul in New York]. [applause] There were ambassadors who hid so they would not have to explain to the press the truth about Panama because they neither understood nor felt it. There cannot be representatives abroad who do not have deep feelings about their fatherland, who are unaware of the reality of their country, and who do not understand and who do not support the Panamanian people's patriotic and nationalist struggle.

We gradually began to recover lost ground and today delegations of many parts of the world have already passed through this hall. There have been various meetings of solidarity and support for the Panamanian cause, but I think that the most notable, the most significant one, precisely because of what the Ecuadoran delegate mentioned, because of women's responsibility, conscience, and love, because of that, this women's meeting is the most significant one in support of Panamanian unity and action. [applause]

I must ashamedly admit that since 1984, Panamanian women have not been distinguished with high-ranking government positions. [applause, slogans] It is inexplicable that in 3 and 1/2 years, [slogans] it is inexplicable that in almost 4 years there has not been a single woman in the cabinet in this presidential term. [applause, slogans]

I hope that in the task of distributing political positions, the UNADE [National Democratic Union] parties that support the government will recommend women for the best positions in the Panamanian state. [applause, slogans]

I take this opportunity to pledge that I will correct this error as soon as possible. [applause, slogans]

I believe this is an appropriate time to explain what has been taking place in Panama in the past few days; I am referring to the talks. For over 1 month, the United States has been sending an envoy to hold talks with Commander Noriega; he has not been directly involved in the talks.

However, the first time they arrived they arrogantly told Noriega that he had 48 hours to leave the country. In the face of a categorical no, they said he would have to face the consequences. They returned 10 days later. At that time, they apologized for their statements. Nevertheless, they maintained the same views but voiced them more softly, courteously, and decently; in essence, the same views.

They were told no once again and they returned 1 week later. On this occasion, they somewhat changed their original stand. They returned the next week and spent approximately 10 days holding talks in Panama. And finally, they expressed a wish to find solutions to the conflict with Panama.

However, when the moment of truth came, there was nothing there. Simply put, they had the same intention concealed by an apparent change in attitude. At dawn 2 days ago, they finally presented a definitive plan. It simply stated that they would annul the indictment [preceding word in English]—that arranged [amanado], political, and ill-intentioned process—that they are maintaining against General Manuel Antonio Noriega. On that basis alone, Gen Noriega was to leave the command on 12 August and leave the country this September. [shouts, slogans]

On the other hand, when we told them about the need that they provide guarantees and assurances that they would seek means to partially repair the economic damage inflicted on the Republic of Panama, they just made promises and nothing was crystalized. When we discussed who would be in government, there was a somewhat whimsical formula calling on me to select a national unity cabinet while being a de facto ruler. Once this cabinet was selected, this cabinet would in turn select a minister in charge [of the Presidency]—that minister could not be myself—to allow them to recognize the new government and unfreeze the funds that they are holding on behalf of Mr Eric Arturo Delvalle and Mr Sosa in the United States.

For the time being, they would have only lifted the embargo that only includes the taxes paid by U.S. companies operating in Panama. However, Gen Noriega said no when he was supposed to sign this agreement. Noriega said he did not accept it because he is not seeking elimination of the indictment [preceding word in English]; he is seeking repair for damage done to Panama, and the agreement did not have anything to prevent this [as heard]. [applause]

This is the truth about what was rejected. Now they are saying simply that there were two reasons why it was rejected: Due to Commander Noriega's personal selfishness and personal interests, he opted for the Panamanian people to continue suffering the effects of economic and fiscal crisis. The other reason is that he and I were leading the government toward the communist spheres because we were turning toward domestic and international communism, guided in this case by Nicaragua and Cuba. However, this is what is always said.

The personal interest was proved: If it had been for Commander Noriega's personal interest, he would have signed, as he personally was being offered the elimination of an unjust prosecution, a false prosecution—that is all. If he had wanted to avoid that problem, he could have easily signed the agreement and would have been spared this problem of this sword of Damocles dangling over his throat. However, this was not his personal interest. He has proved this time and time again. It is a patriotic, nationalist position, willing to sacrifice himself to benefit the Panamanian community and people. They

cannot understand this, the same way they cannot understand that the Panamanian women have joined together to defend the fatherland. [applause]

The same way they cannot understand that with the economic and fiscal crisis we have, there are far fewer white handkerchiefs and banging pots, because we no longer have any. [laughs] Previously, however, when the government was divided over the country's future, there were many more pots and handkerchiefs despite the absence of an economic crisis. Now there is awareness. There has been a decision to defend the national future of Panamanian nationality, but this will not be understood by those who have never had sentiments beyond a dollar. [applause] These things will not be understood.

They cannot say that all the women here favor communism. They cannot say that they are here because of personal interests; they are here because they love their fatherland, and that love will not be silenced. [applause]

Upon inaugurating this first meeting of women in solidarity with Panama, I want to put on record my gratitude to the Panamanian people and my gratitude to Latin American peoples for the women's and men's heroic acts at this crucial time for the Republic.

To Ecuador and the remaining Latin American peoples, my eternal gratitude. In Ecuador there have been gestures that we should know and acknowledge. After 1 month of struggle, a team visited us with 110 balboas that had been collected by a radio station. [applause] However, it was not the 110 balboas that mattered; it was the amount in sucres these Ecuadoran women and children gave so we could see the definite gesture of solidarity, kindness, and love on behalf of our cause. [applause]

In that country car horns were honked periodically to signify support for Panama and protest the aggression we were suffering and continue to suffer. Other peoples on the continent have demonstrated kindness, appreciation, and solidarity.

Today, Panama has had a resurgence in the hearts of the poor peoples of the world, of the Latin American peoples, as it had when Torrijos took up the struggle for the treaty that today some are attempting to mock or disregard. However, these times have rekindled the Panamanian people's struggle, and the Panamanian Government, which I have the honor to head, will closely follow in Torrijos' footsteps. [applause] It will closely follow up the nationalist struggle, because we emerged in public life in a struggle for the sovereignty of the Republic. We emerged through a student federation and a patriotic front whose basic foundation was defense of Panamanian nationality. Today, we do not want to be, and will not be traitors to either our struggles or to our generation. [applause]

Someone has asked me what we will do with certain supermarkets that are forcing the people to spend their entire checks. [applause] We are taking the appropriate measures. We will increase the suburban people's markets and supply centers, and we will soon take direct measures against those establishments that have been exploiting the Panamanian people and have turned their backs on our Republic. [applause]

With your contribution, with the contribution of the men of our country, with the contribution of the Defense Forces, which are the symbol of the struggle for our nationality at this time, [applause] we hope to carry forward a task in the short time in which we will direct the Republic's destiny, with the pledge that we will always be at the side of the class to which we belong: the Panamanian people.

Thank you very much.

Rognoni Insists on U.S. Economic Damage Payment

PA2605143988 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 26 May 88 p 1

[Report by Hermes Sucre Serrano]

[Text] Yesterday Commerce and Industry Minister Mario Rognoni stated that the United States must pay for the damage inflicted on the country's economy. This damage totals 1.5 billion balboas. The minister also reaffirmed that until the unilateral economic sanctions against the country are lifted there can be no negotiations for an agreement with General Noriega.

Rognoni, who is also a prominent Democratic Revolutionary Party member and economic adviser to the government, stated: "Panama's economic recovery will take years unless the United States justly replaces what it has taken away from us."

The commerce and industry minister denied that an agreement between Gen Noriega and the U.S. Government was reached. He added that the current conversations are the product of a change of opinion at the White House and State Department, which are showing a better disposition to reaching an agreement.

Minister Rognoni's statements were made at a news conference held in his office to announce the "Second Special Sunday at Central Avenue" on 29 May. This activity is to sell school and general merchandise. It will have a complete cultural program and the sale of handicrafts and books. The prices of all items will be very reasonable as the activity is geared toward helping consumers with back-to-school expenses.

Rognoni noted that the United States has not been able to sell the idea of the commander's retirement because such a decision must be made by officers and Gen Noriega in accordance with Armed Forces Law 20.

Asked to comment about the disappearance of the evidence against Gen Noriega, Rogononi stated that it showed the evidence never existed and that it was all a campaign against Panama. "U.S. officials are very careful with documents, and this new event is very strange," he added.

Rognoni also stated that Panama is not facing export problems and said the crisis had damaged the domestic market and not its traditional markets, including the United States. He also confirmed that Panama continues its search for new markets.

Regarding the problems in small-loans companies, Rognoni stated that these are because most of these companies worked with bank money and, therefore, lacked access to new capital. The small-loan companies are also having trouble collecting their debts. Rognoni added: "This ministry has been helping them despite all our present difficulties."

MATUTINO Hails Noriega Assembly Appearance

PA2705142188 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 27 May 88 p 4

[Editorial: "At This Moment: Yesterday's Historic Session"]

[Text] By a majority decision of the Legislative Assembly, General Manuel Antonio Noriega was summoned to appear before the Assembly to answer a wide range of questions on Panama's current situation and the severe multifaceted crisis we are facing as a result of the aggression that the Reagan administration has organized against us.

The historic meeting was not only a true test of fire for Commander Noriega, who gallantly passed it with the unbeatable weapon of irrefutable truth, but an undeniable victory for Panama's position that this aggression is inspired by goals and motives that have nothing to do with one of our institutions—the Panama Defense Forces [FDP]—or a person, i.e., the FDP commander in chief. The real motivation is the desire to subject Panama to the devious neoimperialist maneuvering of Mr Reagan and his cronies in an open break with the U.S. people's national character.

Before a large number of local and foreign newsmen, Gen Noriega gave a broad account of the conversations—not negotiations, which were never held—between the FDP and President Reagan's envoys.

However, the truly exciting part of the session was the one devoted to the questions that some of the honorable legislators posed to Gen Noriega. His answers made it clear that he had no fear of answering questions on any subject that could be brought up during this questioning. No matter how difficult it looked, not a single subject was left without an explanation. In our opinion, the distinguished newsmen who covered the meeting could not have felt unsatisfied over any deficiency in the extent or range of the questions.

The absence of the legislative opposition was glaringly obvious. To justify their absence, the members of that bloc argued that they did not want to contribute to a farce based on prearranged questions. The actual facts demonstrated that their arguments lacked and continue to lack real substance because they could have asked any question they wished. Therefore, one can only surmise that the real reason behind their refusal to attend was the certainty that they did not have and do not have any questions to ask to meet the expectations they have been creating by threatening to make revelations, and that they could not keep the personality of Gen Noriega—on whom the enemy has centered its struggle against Panama and anything Panamanian—from coming out strengthened both locally and abroad.

LA REPUBLICA on Failure of Talks With U.S.

PA2705021888 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 26 May 88 p 4

[Editorial: "Failure of Disinformation"]

[Text] Since the start of the visits by Mr Reagan's envoy in Panama to discuss with General Noriega or his representatives the formulas for his leaving the commander's post, the Panamanian news media has reported Gen Manuel Antonio Noriega's and Romulo Escobar Bethancourt's statements that these were not negotiations, but were instead talks on possible formulas in exchange for the withdrawals of the charges levied against Noriega in the United States and for lifting the sanctions that hang over our Panama. These sanctions have driven our country to a crisis without precedent in our history.

Moreover, the U.S. disinformation media and the statements by that country's officials, including Secretary of State George Shultz, indicated that negotiations were under way. They indicated that the problem was close to being resolved and that terms of the agreement would be disclosed in a matter of hours simultaneously by Shultz in Washington and Noriega in Panama.

To face up to those lies, the Strategic Military Council flatly stated that the commander in chief would not leave his post. Despite that, the matter continued. Yesterday, the U.S. news media noted that statements were imminent.

Indeed, a statement came. Shortly after noon, Shultz told the press that the negotiations had failed and that the United States reiterated its proposal to Gen Noriega. Noriega already knew this since the talks had begun. The problem between the United States and Panama is not the commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces,

but all aspects of the U.S. aggression. The United States has to resolve these aspects, because that country, together with Panamanian traitors, caused it.

It has also been said that Mr Davis sabotaged the talks because he is in cahoots with a bunch of traitors in Washington and Panama.

However, our people remain firm. Their dignity and the defense of their sovereignty have been invulnerable to the U.S. campaigns of misinformation and the harassment that they have utilized since the crisis began. It is good that the United States learns this lesson and that it does not return to talk while carrying a big stick

CRITICA Praises Leaders' Firm Position
PA2605133588 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 26 May 88 p 4

[Editorial: "A Position of Firm Principles"]

[Text] Although in our administration the principle of rotation of public offices is in effect, and most of these offices are regulated by democratic laws and norms, it is also true that there are private and public moral principles that prevent government leaders and administrators from yielding to exaggerated and humiliating demands, especially when those demands and ultimatums come from individuals, organizations, countries, or governments that are outside of Panama's legal jurisdiction.

Colonialism has been beating a retreat on all continents, particularly since World War II when, in order to have moral authority to confront the Hitlerite madness of a worldwide superimperialism which he called the Third Reich, the allied nations proclaimed the freedom of all peoples and the abolition of colonialist servitude. Perhaps some U.S. leaders have forgotten President Franklin D. Roosevelt's lesson. However, we Panamanians have not forgotten it. That is why the statement of the Strategic Military Council (CEM) of the Panama Defense Forces opposing the removal or resignation of General Manuel Antonio Noriega is an anticolonialist statement and ratification of national independence and the principle of self-respect of our institutions. If the United States wants a good agreement with Panama, it should begin with basics: mutual respect, mutual convenience, and no impositions. In this way, the two countries that made the Panama Canal possible will come out strengthened.

Columnist: Country 'Thorn' in Reagan Throat
PA2505223388 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 25 May 88 p 4

["Political Arena" column by Baltazar Renan Aizpurua: "Not a Pushover"]

[Text] Panama has become a thorn in President Reagan's throat. His candidate, George Bush, and all the U.S. Government Administration know that if differences with Panama are not solved soon, Mr Bush's presidential aspirations will be jeopardized.

Why will these aspirations be jeopardized? Because the Yankee administration has been so clumsy in handling the case; they did not foresee that Panama was going to withstand such a strong broadside, nor did they believe that our current situation could ever come to be. For these and other reasons, President Reagan needs to remove the subject of negotiations with Panama from the electoral debate.

The fact that President Reagan met with the following people in the White House last Saturday is evidence of our statements: Secretary of State George Shultz, Secretary of Defense Frank Carlucci, Attorney General Edwin Meese, National Security Council Director Colin Powell, CIA Director William Webster, and Vice President and Republican presidential candidate George Bush. All these officials and other top-level government officials met to discuss "what can be done with General Noriega." They thought they would find an old ox in the cage and found themselves with a tiger that has them clearly at bay! Consequently, and following the analysis made yesterday in this column, we believe that the empire's present political negotiating option must be permanent and not temporary.

Why? First, the empire's internal allies, the oligarchs, do not have the strength nor the desire to invest resources to mobilize its bases to demand in the streets the toppling of government. The oligarchs left for Miami and Coronado [Panama beach resort] a long time ago. They closed their political plotting offices and have left "Daddy" Reagan with the task of solving their headache.

Second, the economic-blockade alternative is washed out. This is a fact, even if those who are not suffering its effects—the ones who went to Miami and Coronado—believe the government will fall if economic aggression is continued.

How little do they know the history of nations. Cuba and Nicaragua are daily, blatant examples that nations withstand economic aggression.

Third, we believe the military alternative is difficult to implement because of the electoral and strategic interests at stake. If the empire were to implement a military aggression against Panama, it would be tantamount to taking the confrontation to New York neighborhoods.

Gen Noriega has already listed the conditions that the United States must guarantee to attain a successful negotiation:

1) Lifting the economic blockade.

2) Acceptance of Solis Palma's constitutional government.

3) Withdrawl of excessive U.S. troops from Panama.

4) Respect for Panama's Defense Forces.

5) Respect for Panama's sovereignty and independence.

A rooster cannot crow louder or clearer. We hope Reagan has understood that when a country decides to free itself from colonialism, there is no empire that can stop it.

Ritter on Election to UN Human Rights Body

PA2705160788 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0110 GMT 27 May 88

[Text] Today Panama was elected a member of the UN Commission on Human Rights, made up of 43 countries. Foreign Minister Jorge Ritter explains the meaning of this appointment for our country:

[Begin Ritter recording] I think this is a great triumph for Panamanian diplomacy that we have taken part in a close vote with Costa Rica. The results were 31 for Panama and 23 for Costa Rica. All members of the UN Economic and Social Council voted.

I believe the fact that we were elected to the Commission on Human Rights is not only a recognition of our country's international prestige, but also a great triumph for Panamanian diplomacy, because we competed with a country like Costa Rica, which enjoys enormous international prestige in this field. [end recording]

Government Announces Changes in Foreign Service

PA2505182688 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 25 May 88 p 10

[Text] The executive branch continues to restructure the foreign service to bring it into line with President Manuel Solis Palma's policies.

In Decrees No 129, 130, 132, and 133, signed by President Solis Palma and Foreign Ministr Dr Jorge Eduardo Ritter, the following appointments and dismissals were announced:

The appointment of Salvador de la Iglesia Arias as Panamanian ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the Republic of Nicaragua is hereby revoked.

The appointment of Juan Antonio Arias Eskildsen as commercial adviser in the Panamanian Embassy in Austria and as Panamanian consul general in Vienna is revoked.

Dorinda Maribel Jaramillo Barrios is appointed third secretary in the diplomatic service, to replace Niurka Candanedo, whose appointment is revoked for abandoning her post.

Luz Divina Arredondo Espinosa is appointed third secretary in the diplomatic service.

Enrique Victoria Chavarria is appointed third secretary at the Panamanian Embassy in Japan.

Jose Angel Vergara Guerra is appointed attache in the Panamanian Embassy in Mexico City.

PANAPRESS: Loss of U.S. Evidence 'Incredible'

PA2505213688 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1629 GMT 25 May 88

[By Martin Cabral]

[Excerpt] Panama City, 25 May (ACAN-EFE)—The charges of drug trafficking against General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander of the Panama Defense Forces, may be "a fabrication" to cover up the political goals in the campaign against the military officer.

A report by the Panamanian official press agency PANAPRESS comments today on the "alleged disappearance" of documents that "support" the charges against Noriega, considered Panama's "strongman."

Reports from Washington yesterday indicate that the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) is investigating the possibility that evidence supporting the charges "may have been deliberately destroyed." DEA documents on the case that were filed at the U.S. Embassy in Panama for subsequent transfer to Miami "have inexplicably disappeared."

Yesterday ACAN-EFE tried to get a comment from the embassy on the incident, but the reply was a suggestion that we talk to the DEA offices in Miami.

Today PANAPRESS says that "it is incredible that in the U.S. diplomatic offices, where there are strict security measures...a robbery of that magnitude could have occurred."

"This implausible information would seem to indicate that those documents never existed, especially since certain officials in President Reagan's administration have declared that the charges against Gen Noriega are political in nature," the official agency said. [passage omitted]

Argentina

Arab League Delegation Briefs Alfonsin

PY2705033988 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2325 GMT 26 May 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 26 May (TELAM)—President Raul Alfonsin and the members of the Arab League delegation visiting Argentina today agreed on the need to find a political and peaceful solution to the problem of the Palestinian people who live in the occupied territories of the Middle East. This was reported by Jordanian Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri, head of the delegation, at the end of the meeting with Alfonsin at government house.

Al-Masri stressed that they came to Argentina representing the Arab League Council to brief President Alfonsin on the situation of the Palestinian people who live in occupied territories.

Al-Masri added that they talked to Alfonsin about the desire of the Arab countries to find a political solution to the Palestinian problem and to exchange lands for peace in the pursuit of this objective.

He stated that he agreed with Alfonsin on the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and announced that the Arab countries want to promote a meeting of the parties involved, including Israel and the PLO, at the United Nations.

The delegation, which also included the representative of the Arab League Mission in Argentina, Fayez Saayed [name as received], conveyed to President Alfonsin the greetings of the governments of the Arab countries and expressed their satisfaction over the meeting.

Caputo Urges L.A., African States To Join Forces

PY2505184088 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1512 GMT 25 May 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 25 May (NA)—Today Foreign Minister Dante Caputo said there is an urgent need for Latin Ameican and African countries to join forces and exert their international influence to safeguard "our independent negotiating capacity in view of the power struggle" between the superpowers. Caputo said this during a speech he delivered at the OAU meeting being held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

In his speech, which has been released here by the Foreign Ministry, Caputo told OAU leaders he is in Addis Ababa to convey the wishes of "the Group of Eight to implement new and effective dialogue and cooperation channels" between the two regions.

Speaking before chiefs of state, government leaders, and representatives of African nations which are commemorating the 25th anniversary of the creation of the OAU, Foreign Minister Caputo said both Africans and Latin Americans "share the same past in their struggle for independence and mutual solidarity."

He added: "Even today, our nations continue in their long and constant struggle to achieve full freedom for mankind and in their quest to achieve equal opportunities, which is a right that must be exercised by individuals as well as societies."

Caputo said Latin Americans and Africans uphold the principles of nonintervention and peaceful solutions to controversies. He added: "We are all too familiar with how foreign interests make our lands into the scenario for their own disputes, thus delaying our plans of peace and development."

In his 10-page speech, Caputo said: "We want a place in this (modern) world, to participate in the decisionmaking process, and to make and welcome contributions but under completely different conditions and possibilities than the selfish ones that are presently enforced by the international system."

After reviewing the creation of the "Group of Eight" a year and a half ago, Caputo said: "We are also aware that this new America wants to be part of the efforts and capacity, together with other countries of the world, particularly with young developing African nations."

He added that through his presence in Ethiopia "we express our solidarity with this magnificent undertaking of African unity and with our frank willingness to cooperate for the mutual benefit of our continents."

After mentioning international statements promoting cooperation among developing countries, Caputo said: "We must also admit we have done far too little in exploring the real possibilities of achieving true cooperation among developing countries."

He added that despite this negative picture there is "a clear political will" to promote South-South cooperation and that regional integration has allowed us to enjoy "a real ability to achieve South-South cooperation."

Caputo urged Latin Americans and Africans to "start working and organizing our own dialogue mechanisms with which to establish realistic objectives that can be achieved in the short term."

Lastly, Caputo said: "Cooperation and joint efforts will allow us to achieve our common objectives: to strengthen our independence, and protect the rights of our peoples to develop and prosper."

Crespo Denies Plans To Attack Other Services

PY2400122400 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1900 GMT 23 May 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 May (NA)—At noon today, Brigadier Ernesto Crespo, Air Force chief of staff, categorically denied news media reports that operational plans have been drawn up according to which the Air Force is to attack the Army and the Navy. Crespo attributed these rumors to the desire to "build up the defense of those who tried to take over the Aeroparque military base."

In the course of a news conference, Crespo also denied that Argentina will purchase Air Force materiel from the PRC, stressing that cooperation plans "involve only satellite communications."

The Air Force chief of staff met with journalists at his office shortly after noon today and directly discussed a commentary published today by a metropolitan daily that Crespo himself had ordered the destruction of the original and copies of a plan according to which the Air Force was to attack the Army and the Navy.

After stating that "this report could not withstand close scrutiny in a serious country," Crespo added that the rumors are prompted by "the need to build up the defense of those who tried to take over the military base" during the attack on Aeroparque Airport.

The Air Force chief of staff lamented that those reports are made public in "news media that have free access to Air Force offices for consultations."

Crespo added that "the rumors are based on piecemeal and mistaken information concerning a plan that Vice Commodore Estrella [officer involved in the Aeroparque incident] presented as the basis for his legal defense, in an attempt to prove that he acted in order to avoid a civil war."

He went on to say: "On the contrary, the plan really provides for the concentration and defense of all significant Air Force materiel at the appropriate military bases in case of a domestic conflict." Crespo stressed that "the plan is not intended for an attack but for defense by establishing zones, responsibilities, and providing instructions for each scenario."

Asked whether it is true that he personally ordered the destruction of an operational plan, Crespo answered that "all operational plans are destroyed once they become obsolete." He emphasized that this is done in compliance with "instructions that are part of the plans themselves. It is done by the chief of operations without any participation at all of the chief of staff."

After blaming the rumors on "political and internal interests" which he labeled "coupist", Crespo said that the Air Force that is sticking together is the one that has fought in the Malvinas Islands, not the one that attacked democracy." [quotation mark as received] He added that democracy is "the system that we will defend because our duty is to make sure that the Constitution is complied with."

Asked whether those who disseminate these rumors want the head of the Air Force chief of staff, among other things, Crespo answered: "You can be sure of that." He added: "The thing is that so far we have been very patient, but we see now that they are no longer attacking only the chief but the service as a whole."

Crespo was also asked about foreign media reports that the Argentine Air Force will purchase MIG planes in the PRC and that two Argentine pilots are in the PRC to test those planes. Crespo said: "This is the first time I have heard about this, and I deny it because there is no interest in that materiel."

He added: "I was the only Air Force representative to accompany the president to the PRC and planes were not discussed; we merely participated in the discussion of an agreement that has to do with cooperation in the field of satellite communications."

When NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS asked him whether the agreement provides for the supply of launching vectors which could possibly be used to launch missiles, Crespo explained that "any vector capable of carrying space vehicles containing satellites can be used for vehicles that contain some other type of payload."

Economy Minister Regrets Policy Change Rumors

PY2505214488 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1627 GMT 25 May 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 25 May (TELAM)—Today Economy Minister Juan Vital Sourrouille expressed regret about the rumors on alleged changes in the government's economic policy, saying these rumors can be harmful to people who do not keep abreast of developments. He also reiterated that there will be no more price controls.

Sourrouille, who last night received full support from President Raul Alfonsin, said that we are all aware that we are experiencing difficulties in Argentina. However, one of the advantages of living under a democratic regime is that everyone can know the truth, Sourrouille said.

The economy minister spoke briefly to the press today after attending a Te Deum mass at the metropolitan cathedral to mark the anniversary of the May revolution.

Answering a journalist, Sourrouille pointed out that the people must understand that this is a difficult task that requires great effort, referring to the government's search for economic solutions.

In this regard, Sourrouille said that he especially appreciates the effort by the Argentine people who are supporting the government's task, thanking them for both their effort to understand the nature of this crisis and their effort to find ways to resolve the crisis.

Regarding excessive price increases, Sourrouille said that some prices have been increased beyond our liking; however, the government does not fix prices now.

Asked about the possibility that price controls will be implemented, the economy minister emphasized that the government has already announced the reasons for the current lack of price controls, and he stated that this is a government policy.

MAS Nominates Zamora as Presidential Candidate

PY2605040588 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2300 GMT 25 May 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 25 May (NA)—The Third National Congress of the Movement Toward Socialism (MAS) today nominated MAS Chairman Luis Zamora as its presidential candidate. The congress also called for the creation of "a front with the workers," and with other Argentine leftist forces. The front will be based on a political program similar to that of the Broad Liberation Front (FRAL), and it will directly elect its candidates.

After the 4-day congress, the MAS announced the results of the debates during a ceremony at the Atlanta Stadium in Buenos Aires. The ceremony was attended by more than 1,500 people.

The negative aspect of the congress was that a split among its board members gave rise to another Trotskyist party that could take away almost a third of the MAS members.

In a fiery speech, Zamora emphasized the MAS participation in the teachers' conflict, and announced the decision of the MAS Congress members to create "a front to unite the left." He said the front will have a program similar to "that of the FRAL," and that its candidates will be "directly elected by the front members."

The MAS Congress also called for the building of "a party to influence the masses," and demanded that a moratorium on the foreign debt be declared. The Congress announced: "Now is the time for Trotskyism and the working class to march toward the seizing of power, as another step toward the international revolution."

Regarding the proposal this afternoon for an alliance with the left, Zamora explained that the front could be built "with the help of any force, including the Communist Party" because it will be based on a program and on the democratic election of its candidates.

Regarding elections, Zamora explained that although the MAS Congress nominated him as a presidential candidate, his candidacy will be proposed to the forces of the alliance. These forces will decide on the names to be proposed.

As an example, Zamora said: "It could be either Echegaray or I. However, if the front is not created, I will be the party's candidate."

Zamora said: "This congress has united the party around its program and its policy, in an effort to convert the MAS into an important party with great influence over the workers and the Argentine people in general."

Zamora's speech was interrupted by slogans chanted by the people saying: "Companeros, companeros, we have decided to be a party of the masses to seize power." In his speech, Zamora lashed out at Radicals and Peronists and recalled that more than 10 years ago, "when we went to the gates of the plants to say that Balbin and Peron were the same, we had to go on motorcycles to be able to leave the place in a hurry because even the workers ran after us."

"Of course," he said, "this happened when the people gave their lives for Peron. Now, however, no one would give his life for Caffiero, or Menem. Nowadays, the bureaucrats, the Miguels, the Triacas, the Ubaldinis, and the Garcettis do not have the the courage to go to the gates of the plants."

Zamora concluded by saying: "The only party that can change this capitalist Argentina is the MAS because we are the only ones who shout together with the workers, and denounce the national and provincial governments."

General Bussi Withdraws From Provincial Party

PY2605135588 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1229 GMT 26 May 88

[Text] San Miguel de Tucuman, 26 May (TELAM)—Alberto Germano, political leader of Tucuman Province, has confirmed that General Antonio Bussi, retired, has withdrawn from the White Flag Provincial Defense Party. Germano also announced the creation of a new political party which may be called the Federalist Force.

Alberto Germano, who belongs to a splinter sector of the White Flag, said that a call will be made to a large sector of Tucuman to join the new political party, but he excluded Provincial Deputy Ramon Cesar Barrera, who belongs to White Flag, because of political differences.

Leaders of the new organization are currently doing the necessary paperwork to get the recognition of the provincial party by justice officials.

Drug Ring Using Moscow Route Broken Up

PY2705031988 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2340 GMT 26 May 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 26 May (NA)—Federal police sources have reported that the federal police have broken up an organization involved in international cocaine trafficking. The cocaine was transported to several European capitals after a stopover in Moscow.

The sources said that as a result of investigations five members of the ring, who possessed 3 kg of very pure cocaine hydrochloride, were detained yesterday in several raids in Buenos Aires.

The first clue to the existence of the organization became available 1 month ago when Soviet authorities in Moscow arrested three Argentine citizens possessing 3 kg of cocaine each and hidden in false-bottom suitcases.

The sources told NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS that these three drug traffickers are being detained in the Soviet capital, and that their extradition will not be requested. Thus, they will be subject to the severe laws by which drug trafficking is punished in the Soviet Union.

The drug traffickers were arrested on their way to West Europe—the country was not named—after they flew from Buenos Aires to Moscow aboard the Soviet airline AEROFLOT.

Although it could not be determined how long the drug traffickers have been using this method, the sources did not rule out the possibility that this method was used on several occasions.

Flights arriving in European cities from Moscow are subject to fewer controls by the antinarcotics authorities due to the severe controls by Soviet authorities in this field.

Bolivia

President Receives UK Foreign Affairs Official

PY2605143288 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 26 May 88

[Text] Timothy Eggar, British assistant secretary for foreign affairs, has said that the Bolivian stabilization program has made many advances in fulfilling its objectives

Eggar was received by President Paz Estenssoro. He conveyed to the president the British opinion on the new economic policy. Eggar told Panamericana that the Bolivian economic programs have succeeded in stabilizing the country and could create good conditions for future development. Eggar said that Great Britain is also implementing a program to control inflation. He added that the Bolivian people are making great efforts to improve the international image of Bolivia, and that British companies are interested in investing in Bolivia. Eggar recalled that the latest agreement signed with Bolivian authorities to protect British investments in the country are a good reason for British entreprenuers to invest in the mining, agriculture, and manufacturing sectors. Eggar added that the United Kingdom has established a very successful fish farming program in Beni Department and that this could encourage new investments in the area.

Interior Ministry Says DEA Agents To Remain

PY2605163788 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 26 May 88

[Excerpt] Jorge Alderete, under secretary for social defense at the Interior Ministry, has said that the government will not bow to pressure from the peasants to expel DEA agents from Bolivia. Alderete thus rejected the cocoa growers request to expel the 20 U.S. DEA agents. He said that these agents operate in areas where drug trafficking is prevalent, adding that there is an important U.S.-Bolivian cooperation agreement in this field which will not be abandoned.

Cochabamba—Nearly 3,000 peasants from the Chapare region yesterday marched down the main streets and avenues of the city in the first stage of a peasant-announced mobilization. The peasants began to arrive on 23 May; they now number some 6,000. The peasants say they will remain in the city until Congress approves the law on controlled drugs and cocoa production and until the tripartite agreement [COB, peasants, and government] recently signed at the Foreign Ministry is respected.

The peasants chanted slogans criticizing the government for breaking its promises to them. The demonstrators also demanded the withdrawal of U.S. DEA agents from the Chapare region, stating that the peasants will no longer be responsible for their security. DEA agents have said that they would not abandon their work because of pressure from the peasants.

Peasant leaders announced their decision to block department and provincial roads if the government continues to avoid a resolution of the issue. They also called on the Single Trade Union Confederation of Bolivian Peasant Workers to declare a national mobilization in support of their demands.

Regarding the peasant ultimatum to DEA agents, the Cochabamba UMOPAR commander categorically denied the peasants allegations of high-handed behavior by DEA agents against Chapare peasants. The commander stated that as a Bolivian officer he will ensure that Bolivian sovereignty is respected. [passage omitted]

Brazil

Sarney Refuses To Appear Before Senate

PY2705022088 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 26 May 88

[Report by Joao Pena]

[Text] At 1600 today, President Jose Sarney received notification from the Federal Supreme Court, STF, to appear before the Senate CPI [Congressional Commission of Inquiry] for questioning by CPI members on

federal government administrative irregularities. Planalto Palace spokesman Carlos Henrique de Almeida Santos comments:

[Begin recording] President Sarney merely acknowledged receipt of the notification by writing: I am notified, today's date, and his signature.

However, out of courtesy to the head of another branch of government, President Sarney sent a note to STF Chief Justice Rafael Mayer. In the note, President Sarney explains why he will not answer the questions.

Regarding the references in the notification to an alleged file, the president said the notification does not attribute any statement regarding this file to him.

Regarding the explanation being requested from him on his statement that there is moral terrorism in the country, President Sarney said the statement was made during a public ceremony on 14 April in Jales, during which he addressed the people as president of the Republic. Sarney said the statement referred to current political realities and did not refer to anyone specifically. [end recording]

According to Carlos Henrique, President Sarney deemed the notification groundless, and therefore declined to answer it.

The notification was handed by STF Director General Sebastiao Duarte Xavier to Civil Household Chief Ronaldo Costa Couto, who took it to President Sarney to acknowledge receipt.

Indians Protest Draft Constitution Article
PY2605223188 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0807 GMT 26 May 88

[By Jose Antonio Maillo]

[Text] Brasilia, 26 May (EFE)—Representatives of 30 on the 180 Indian nations that remain in Brazil have threatened to "spill blood" if a constitution article establishing two types of Indians, one with rights and another without rights, is approved.

The 200-strong Indian delegation in Brasilia has promised to create "a confederation of independent Indian states" and expel all whites from their lands if Constituent Assembly members vote in favor of Article 271 of the charter on social order, which refers to their rights.

The constitution text recognizes the original rights of Indians to the land they occupy and their social organizations, customs, practices, languages, beliefs, and traditions. The text says the state will be in charge of the custody of their property.

The text also states that the land Indians occupy will become inalienable and subject to no statute of limitations. They could only be asked to leave because of epidemic or catastrophes, and their return will be guaranteed once the cause for their leaving has been overcome.

But the article in question also says that "these rights will not apply to Indians who have largely integrated into society, those who live in continuous coexistence within it, or those who do not inhabit Indian lands. [closing quotation mark not received]

"This means that if the article is approved our land will be invaded by whites," stated Megaron Txucarramae, chief of the Xingu (Amazones) Indian park. Nearly 2,000 Indians live in Xingu.

"In the United States, Indians were exterminated with guns. In Brazil they want to exterminate us with the stroke of a pen," the chief said.

Marcos Terena, adviser of the Brazilian Ministry of Culture—who also administers companies and is a good example of an integrated Indian—pointed out that the Indian communities will be forced to reject the constitution that is being drafted. "We will ask the United Nations to appoint one of us ambassador, thus giving us the opportunity to defend our interests," Terena said.

PMDB Congressman Fabio Feldmann has presented an amendment that eliminates Article 271 and has shown concern for the threat to the Indians. Feldmann, who believes that article is "ridiculous and untimely," said: "A radical and unexpected response from the Indian communities may cause the whole thing to go wrong." "If this article is approved, the Indians may create an independent Indian state," Feldmann added.

In the opinion of Feldmann—who blames the inclusion of this article in the constitution draft on the National Indian Foundation (FUNAI) and the National Security Council (CSN)—"any Indian wearing a pair of blue jeans [preceding expression in English], will lose his rights."

The 200 Indians who are in Brasilia, and who yesterday stayed near the Congress, have a letter expressing the support of 90 Brazilian artists, including singers Chico Buarque, Milton Nascimento, Beth Carvalho, and actress Maite Proenca. The Indians also have the support of leftist groups, which through their votes hope to prevent the article from being included in the new constitution.

The chapter that refers to the rights of Indians is the last one in the section that deals with the social order, and the last chapter of the entire constitution. After this chapter is voted on, the Constituent Assembly members will begin voting on the temporary provisions.

When Portuguese navigator Pedro Alvares Cabral discovered Brazil in 1500, there were from 2 to 5 million Indians in the country. According to FUNAI statistics, currently there are only some 220,000 Indians, including those living isolated in the inaccessible regions of the Amazon forest.

The statute on Indians, which was promulgated in 1937, was aimed at regulating the legal situation and the rights of Brazilian Indians.

The statute defines as an Indian "any citizen of pre-Colombian origin or descent who considers himself or is considered a member of an ethnic group whose cultural characteristics are different from those of the rest of the national society."

Chile

Matthei on Constitution, Plebiscite, Economy

PY2605135288 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 0030 GMT 26 May 88

[Text] General Fernando Matthei, the Chilean Air Force [FACh] commander in chief and a member of the Government Junta, today reiterated that the Constitution is beyond any discussion, adding that the Constitution is essential to defend Chile from a totalitarian assault and from Marxism.

Gen Matthei today participated in a meeting of the Chilean-British Chamber of Commerce in Santiago.

Gen Matthei emphasized the huge task conducted by the government over the past 15 years although it faced the most adverse circumstances of this century.

Gen Matthei added that there is no doubt that the most important aspect of the government's task involves the establishment of modern institutionalization in keeping with the destiny of justice and progress deserved by our fatherland, an institutionalization established by the 1980 Constitution. Gen Matthei said that the Constitution is beyond any discussion. We respect it and we will make it respected. The Constitution is essential to defend Chile from the totalitarian assault of Marxism, or from any other group.

In the economic field, Gen Matthei emphasized, among other aspects, the progress achieved in the agricultural, industrial, and mining fields. The boom in agricultural, industrial and mining exports is the result of serious and professional handling of the economy.

Gen Matthei said that Chilean businessmen have made investments despite the huge difficulties enountered, thus expressing full confidence in the government. The same applies to foreign investors.

Gen Matthei said that despite the importance of the institutional and economic aspects the government, and especially President Pinochet, have always been concerned about the standard of living of Chileans, especially the poorest. In this field, the government's task is a unique case in Latin America, as was reported by the World Bank, he said. Under adverse economic conditions, fiscal expenditures have increased in efficiency, permitting the country to continue increasing its welfare rates.

Given this solid and undeniable achievement, Gen Matthei said, the opposition has nothing to offer but a return to the treacherous past and to be cast into oblivion by the same groups and by the same protagonists.

Henceforth, Gen Matthei said, Chile will have to perform in an increasingly efficient and competitive world.

This is, Gen Matthei added, the crossroad that Chileans are facing today. Either the Chileans trust the government that saved them from Marxist tyrany and economic ruin, the government that trusted in their talent and hard work, the government that without any stridency or demagoguery led them to great achievements, paving the way for economic and social development in the 21st-century Latin America, or we start from scratch again.

We give you a choice. You and all Chileans will decide, Gen Matthei concluded.

Four Extremists Arrested, Weapons Seized

PY2605193188 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 26 May 88

[Excerpts] Four individuals, who are charged with belonging to the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front, were arrested by members of the Investigative Police. It was disclosed that a large quantity of explosives, automatic rifles, and ammunition that the terrorists kept in a home-made strong box were seized by the police.

The police squad, headed by Corporal Sergio Oviedo, have disclosed that the arrested terrorists have been identified as: Manuel Jesus Rubio Bravo, 23, and his sisters Julia Esther, 24, and Teresa de las Mercedes, 21; and Veronica Mariela Moreno Gonzalez, 22. [passage omitted]

Rubio Bravo lived at 6367 La Catrina Street, La Granja District. This house was also used by other extremists.

Colombia

80 People Reportedly Occupy Mexican Embassy

PA2605151388 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1434 GMT 26 May 88

[Text] Bogota, 26 May (DPA) — "Caracol," the Colombian radio network, has reported that approximately 80 people occupied the Mexican Embassy in Bogota today.

The intention of these people who occupied the embassy, located in northern Bogota, is unknown.

The embassy occupation reportedly began at approximately 0925 (1425 GMT).

Demands Listed

PA2605221288 Paris AFP in Spanish 2138 GMT 26 May 88

[Text] Bogota, 26 May (AFP)—The persons occupying the Mexican Embassy in Bogota, who allowed 10 Mexican and Colombian officials to leave, are listing among their demands the free exercise of peasant demonstrations to be conducted in different parts of the country.

The 55 hooded persons who entered the Mexican mission at 1145 have not used force; on the contrary, they have facilitated the entry of 3 Mexican officials. One of these Mexican officials is press attache Constantino Morales, who has served as mediator.

The Mexican Embassy is located in an exclusive sector of Bogota. It is now surrounded by policemen wearing uniforms or civilian clothes. Meanwhile, reporters are approximately 50 meters away.

Early in the afternoon, the hooded persons showed a sign listing their demands. The demands include:

The lifting of the state of siege;

Free exercise of peasant demonstrations;

Demilitarization of the state's national university campus;

Right to live;

Elimination of the antiterrorist law;

Support for the residents of Bogota's southeastern sector, who are protesting water rationing.

This afternoon, total calm prevailed in the Mexican Embassy.

Peru

No Signs of 'Extreme Violence' in Cayara

PY2605134488 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 26 May 88

[Excerpts] Yesterday Justice Minister Camilo Carrillo Gomez installed a committee. He told its members of the need to channel social demands toward achieving justice because this is what heightens men of law. [passage omitted]

Camilo Carrillo also reiterated that there are no signs of extreme violence in Cayara, Ayacucho Department, as had been reported by the media. He said that reports had been received from settlers that about 28 people were killed, but when they were asked if they had something to report about the alleged bombings, rapes, and murder of old men and children, they responded that the reports were not true.

Carrillo added that during his visit to a settlement named (Erusco) he saw the wreckage of an Army truck, an airfield that had been blown up with explosives, and the bodies of four soldiers.

Alleged Subversive Arsenal Found on Beach

PY2605033788 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0129 GMT 26 May 88

[Text] Residents of the El Silencio housing development found a small arsenal in the sands of El Silencio beach, located at km 43 of the southern Pan-American Highway. The arsenal probably belongs to extremist or subversive gangs. The weapons were found this morning.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] How did you find the arsenal?

[Policeman] On one of our patrols along the beach we found some flak jackets sticking out of the sand. They appeared to have been dug up. We started digging there, and we dug up the jackets, a rucksack, and several bags containing a lot of ammunition, loaded light machinegun clips, loaded submachinegun clips, .38-caliber revolver ammunition, .45-caliber pistol ammunition, and Peruvian, Soviet, and U.S.-made hand grenades.

[Reporter] Are the flak jackets the same kind used by the police?

[Policeman] The police, at least in my unit, do not use this kind of jacket; they seem to be manufactured by FAME [not further identified].

[Reporter] Has anybody been arrested?

[Policeman] No, nobody has been arrested.

[Reporter] What about the grenades?

[Policeman] The grenades are Soviet, Peruvian, and U.S. made.

[Reporter] In addition to the grenades, how many revolvers and other arms did you find?

[Policeman] We found two revolvers and a brand new Uzi submachinegun.

[Reporter] What about the license plates you found?

[Policeman] We found some plates that had been used to manufacture forged car license plates; even the numbers were of the same size as real ones.

[Reporter] Did you find any gas canisters?

[Policeman] No, no gas canisters. We found approximately 35 loaded light machinegun clips, bags of ammunition for light machineguns, cases of 9-mm ammunition, and loaded clips for .45-caliber pistols. [end recording]

CP Leader on Government, Shining Path, IU

AU2505095688 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 20 May 88 pp 1, 7

[Report on interview with Jorge del Prado, general secretary of the Communist Party Central Committee, by RUDE PRAVO staff reporter Vera Posledni in Lima; date not given: "Need for a United Course of Action"]

[Text] Jorge del Prado, general secretary of the Peruvian Communist Party Central Committee, gave an interview to RUDE PRAVO's special correspondent in Lima. He spoke about the importance and the prospects of the United Left (Izquierda Unita—IU) coalition and about the party's attitude to the terrorist organization "Shining Path."

[Posledni] How strong is the Peruvian Communist Party at present?

[Del Prado] The IU emerged from the 1985 elections as the second largest political force in the country and now represents an alternative to the current government. Our party is a respected member of this coalition, because it maintains important positions in the CGTP [General Confederation of Peruvian Workers] trade union federation. Thanks to this, the party and the IU are able to mobilize the working people and stage large operations, such as, for instance, general strikes.

[Posledni] Could you characterize the Communists' attitude to the present government of Alan Garcia?

[Del Prado] The government has carried out major changes, especially in the international sphere, which we appreciate and regard as one of the results of our people's struggle. I am thinking of the government's solidarity with Nicaragua, its stand on the problems of Central America and the struggle of the nations of South America against military and fascist dictatorships, its support for a non-nuclear policy, and so forth. We approve of all this. In domestic policy, however, no changes of substance have occurred and in some respects the government has even made a step backwards.

[Posledni] What do you consider to be bad?

[Del Prado] The APRA party (Latin American Social Democracy—editor's note) won the presidential post in the last elections and it commands a majority in both houses of parliament. Greater changes would have been possible, but the government has not made them. It is making all kinds of concessions to the transnational imperialist corporations that predominate in the country's economy. The judiciary is a corrupt, right-wing system in the service of the rich against the poor. Another problem in Peru is the Shining Path, a Pol Pot-style terrorist movement. Its activity is based on the concept of the so-called "inner war," a concept that was created in the Pentagon. In fighting the Shining Path terrorism, government soldiers employ terrorism, too. Under the pretext of some sort of prevention, this terrorist concept is then applied against the people.

[Posledni] A. Garcia's government tried to negotiate with the Shining Path, but to no avail.

[Del Prado] The Shining Path originated in the most backward regions, where the conditions were most favorable for it, especially in areas with a Quechua-speaking population, which is discriminated against. The lives of a large percentage of the population in those regions are dominated by the ideas of their past, by the spirit of Inca and pre-Inca traditions. Previous Peruvian Governments paid virtually no attention to those regions. The Army and the police have set up so-called military-political commandos. In seven provinces, in which the Shining Path represents some kind of a "shadow cabinet," state authorities are under the control of those military commandos. This will solve nothing, however.

[Posledni] What is the Communists' view on the resolution of this problem?

[Del Prado] We are of the opinion that the Shining Path could not come into being and continue to exist were it not for desperate conditions. The Shining Path and the Armed Forces both use tactics of extermination and the civilian population therefore cannot remain neutral. A man who knows that he must die prefers to die in battle, and the only way to acquire a weapon, in this case, is to submit oneself to the Shining Path. This situation has lasted for a long time and nothing has changed. It must be realized that only under the present government have massacres in fact occurred.

[Posledni] What do you mean by massacres?

[Del Prado] Murders of political prisoners. It happened in 1986, during a session of the Socialist International in Lima. Mutinies broke out in three prisons. Because the mutineers were members of the Shining Path, or suspected members, the president yielded to the view of military circles that the mutineers must be killed. There is no capital punishment in Peru. The massacre of the prisoners boomeranged against the government, and the Shining Path, on the other hand, came in for signs of sympathy. Even the families and children of prisoners who did not belong to the organization now regard the government as their irreconcilable enemy.

[Posledni] As far as I know, members of the Shining Path have made an attempt on your life.

[Del Prado] I have not been the only target. The Shining Path has assassinated many civil servants, mayors, and councillors, also from our ranks. It has declared war on the United Left. However, this does not justify the

murders of political prisoners. We must not proceed in this way. Nothing can be achieved by threats or by force. It is necessary to turn to the masses. This is also the reason why the Shining Path directs its struggle against us. Its growth has stopped, its tactics cannot win the masses. On the contrary, it is the United Left, trade unions, and Communists that are winning the support of the masses. That is why the Shining Path is trying to liquidate us physically.

[Posledni] One hears that some parties in the United Left harbor certain sympathies for the Shining Path.

[Del Prado] Some parties that lack the support of the masses may believe that, by being restrained in their statements about the Shining Path, they will win its followers over to their side. We have always opposed the Shining Path because its policy is erroneous. It is not the path of revolution.

[Posledni] What are the chances of the United Left in the next elections?

[Del Prado] The United Left must be closely linked to the popular movement, if it wants to win. There are 2 years to the elections and we should not allow any fragmentation of our movement because of [disagreements over the composition of] the slate of candidates. On the contrary, the IU should be even more united, it should explain its program well, and demonstrate practically that it is already implementing this program. This is a conclusion that we reached at a joint session of the IU. Should the first IU congress, which is scheduled for September, decide on the slate of candidates, we will accept the decision. We are going through a trial period, in which it is necessary, first of all, to protect unity. Any disruption of the unity of left-wing forces, by the departure of one of the smaller parties, for example, would have a noxious influence on the entire process of unifying forces. We have taken another step on the road to the creation of a people's assembly.

[Posledni] What will be its role in society?

[Del Prado] We believe the creation of this institution to be a strategic measure of foremost importance. It associates popular or mass organizations but does not substitute for parties. A decisive influence is exerted by the IU, without the efforts of which the assembly would not come into being, but the assembly comprises members of other parties as well. The main role of the assembly is to coordinate the actions of the working people in the everyday struggle for their demands and for the preservation of their gains. Should the IU win the elections, the assembly would become a kind of a control body linking all sectors of society. This is our Peruvian path. Seizure of power by the IU might bring about the threat of a coup d'etat. Imperialism and reaction do not remain passive. In the case of such a threat, the assembly would be able to declare a nationwide strike and act against the coup, since the masses organized in the assembly have much greater strength.

Polish Vice Foreign Minister Ends Visit

PY2605034688 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0129 GMT 26 May 88

[Text] Polish Vice Foreign Minister Tadeusz Olechowski has left for Venezuela after a 2-day official visit to Peru. Before leaving, Olechowski said he is satisfied with the political contacts made during his visit to Lima.

Guyana

Cuba Confers Medal on Opposition Leader Jagan

FL2505004588 Bridgetown CANA in English 1103 GMT 22 May 88

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, May 22, CANA—Guyana's opposition leader Dr Cheddi Jagan has been invested with the Cuban Order of Solidarity awarded on his 70th birthday. In a statement read at a simple investiture ceremony at the residence of the Cuban ambassador, the first secretary of the embassy, Jose Charon, paid homage and tribute to Jagan for his unflagging devotion to struggle for the welfare of the working people of Guyana.

Jagan's acceptance of medals from foreign governments while turning down Guyana's highest national award, the Order of Excellence, has become a source of controversy here with the ruling People's National Congress (PNC). However, Jagan who is leader of the Marxist-Leninist People's Progressive Party (PPP) has questioned the legality and the authority of the PNC government to make the awards.

No senior government nor PNC functionaries attended Friday night's ceremony even though, according to Ambassador Lazaro Cabezas, several of them had been invited. Representatives of the government media who were also invited did not attend.

In his acceptance remarks, Jagan warmly applauded the achievements of the Cuban people under Fidel Castro and thanked the government and people of Cuba for the honour bestowed on him.

Suriname

Sedoc Meets Netherlands Antilles Prime Minister

FL2605181588 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 26 May 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Eddy Sedoc, during a stopover visit in Curacao yesterday on his way to Havana, met with the Antillean Prime Minister Maria Liberia Peters. According to the daily DE WARE TIJD newspaper, proposals were made to appoint a common commission with the task of making proposals regarding stronger relations between Suriname and the Netherlands Antilles. The government of the Dutch Antilles has further requested the Surinamese foreign minister to look into the possibilities of opening a Surinamese consulate in the Dutch Antilles.

In Havana, Minister Sedoc will attend the preparatory meeting of the Nonaligned Movement for a common position on disarmament. The position of the Nonaligned Movement will be presented to the United Nations conference on disarmament which will be held between May 31st and June 25th.

National Assembly Hears Brunswijk Proposals

FL2605175688 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 26 May 88

[Text] The government yesterday informed the National Assembly about the situation in East Suriname. The Assembly members were, among others, informed about the negotiations between the (?authorities of) Christian churches and the terrorist leader Brunswijk. The Assembly members were also given the opportunity to listen to a cassette recording which was sent to the government by Brunswijk. In the recording, Brunswijk, among other things, made proposals regarding his role in the palm oil company, Patamacca. Also yesterday the National Assembly discussed the problems in the distribution of basic food items. No further information on the meeting was given.

Adequate Security To Be Provided for Refugees

FL2605184088 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 26 May 88

[Text] The UN official in Suriname says adequate security will be provided to Surinamese refugees returning home from French Guiana. The official, Gordon Lennox, of the United Nation's High Commission on Refugees, has been in Paramaribo during the past week for talks on the issue. Mr Lennox said he has no idea how long it will take to create adequate security, but that it will take up to 18 months after an agreement is signed for all the refugees to be returned home.

Police Prevent Illegal Export of Currency

FL2405183388 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 24 May 88

[Text] Three well-known persons, including a director of a state enterprise, a big importer, and an assembly member, were over the last weekend detained by the military police at the Zanderij airport for attempting to export foreign currency illegally from the country. They were on their way to Holland with nearly 100,000 Dutch guilders and 10,000 U.S. dollars which were being taken out of the country without permission. They were, however, allowed to leave the country on the flight but the authorities seized the money. The matter is still being investigated.

Income Tax Workers' Demands Met; Actions End

FL2305230588 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 23 May 88

[Text] The workers at the income tax department this morning called off the action which has been going on for the last 2 weeks after agreement was reached with the Ministry of Finance. The ministry reached agreement on 12 of the demands. These include promotions which have been stopped for years now and overtime payment for the last 3 years. Also, measures will be taken in relation to the safety of functionaries who work in the field. The workers had submitted an ultimatum to the government which expired last night. However, now that agreement has been reached, the actions have been called off.